

THE TIMES

No. 66,358

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

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TICKET 50
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frican tour

**English is
en hope
McCann**

By Our Sports Staff

... the director, ready to pay around £4 million for him. "As far as Hermit is concerned, there is no thought of his part of leaving Celtic on behalf of the club," McCann said. "He will not be leaving either now or in the future. It is very, very happy here, as we have him."

Peter Rafferty, who has the Affiliation of Reserve Celtic Supporters' Club, has been asked to organise a campaign backing the committee led by Dalgleish and his colleagues. Rafferty is excited by the prospect of the takeover and would prefer more details to emerge. He said: "It is a day who are known to be ready to pay around £4 million for him."

McCann said he had many in the club who are delighted with the prospect of a takeover. He said: "It is a day who are known to be ready to pay around £4 million for him."

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TODAY
Friday the 13th: lucky for some
Richard Morrison
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Jane MacQuitty picks her 100 best wines for winter

Jagger: trapped in a soap opera

30p
FRIDAY

Don't hide in the closet, says Raymond Snoddy, reveal all

Prison staff called in as children go on the rampage



"Oh look, he's just smashed up his first cell"

BRITAIN'S first child jail is undergoing a sweeping overhaul after months of turmoil during which young offenders wrecked classrooms, their rooms and kitchens. More than £100,000 has been spent replacing and repairing facilities at the purpose-built Medway Secure Training Centre at Rochester in Kent, an investigation by The Times has discovered.

Group 4, whose subsidiary Rebound runs the unit, has drafted in an eight-strong team of prison officers and other staff to reassert discipline and support intimidated staff. The scale of the problems facing the centre, which houses 40 persistent young offenders aged 12 to 14 at a cost of £2,400 a week each, has emerged after the departure of 35 of the 100 staff — including the head of education and head of care. There have been 97 assaults on staff, 27 of whom needed medical treatment.

The specially toughened bedroom windows have been replaced after the children smashed them with their fists and feet. Wooden doors reinforced with steel are being replaced after the wood was hacked away. CCTV cameras have been destroyed and all bedroom door locks replaced. Children spend nearly 24 hours a day indoors because as soon as they are let out they run towards the

mesh security fences. Two have already managed to escape and one almost reached the M2 on foot. Razor wire has been considered for the top of the perimeter fence but there are fears that even this drastic step would not deter such determined children from attempting to escape. Classes sizes have been cut from five to two because the larger groups were uncontrollable, and children have been given designer clothing and access to computer games to keep the peace.

Mike Taylor, a former supervisor, said that Medway looked "like Beirut: kitchen cupboard doors ripped off, the plastic around the closed circuit television wrecked, the fridge door ripped off, bare wires where they had torn light switches from the wall and the intercom system from their sockets".

Another former supervisor said: "The children bite and kick and spit and headbutt you. We were like lambs to the slaughter. We were told to speak to them nicely. These are heavy-duty juvenile offenders".

Revolt by Lords on party lists poll plan

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

THE House of Lords was last night locked in a battle of wits with the Government after peers threw out for a third time an attempt to restrict voter choice in next year's European elections.

Ministers accused peers of illegitimately challenging the constitutional superiority of the Commons and said the Bill introducing proportional representation might have to be dropped. But peers voted by 237 to 194 to give voters the right to back individual candidates in next summer's poll.

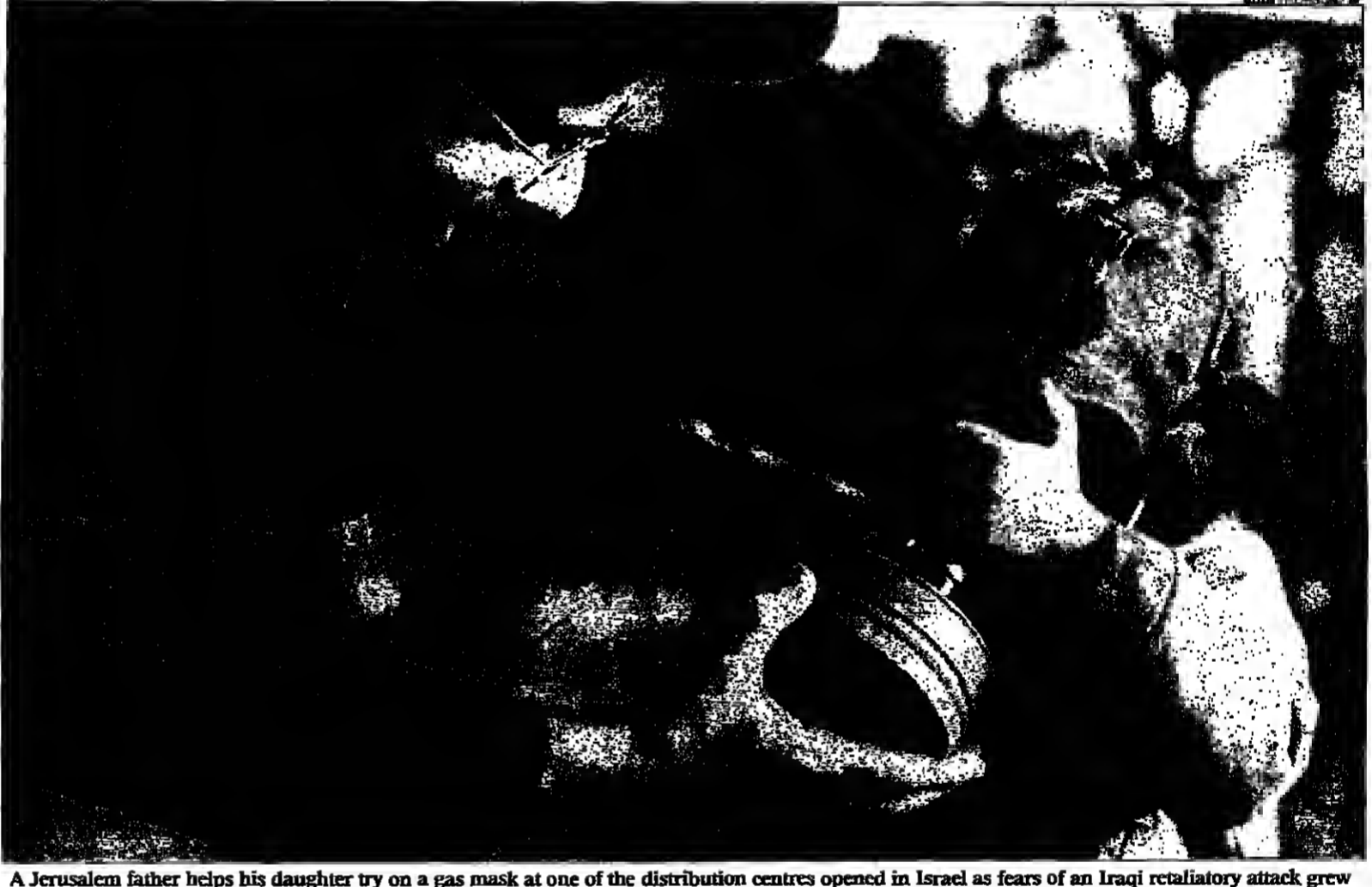
The Government insists on a so-called "closed list" system, in which voters would determine how many seats a party wins but the parties themselves would decide which individuals become MEPs. The three main parties have already selected most of their candidates and placed them on pre-ordered lists.

Labour insisted the defeat was fresh evidence of why hereditary peers needed to be abolished. It said that without the hereditary peers' vote, the Government would have won by 157 life peers to 99.

The Tories claimed that a cross-party alliance was growing against closed lists, which was privately supported by many Labour peers and MPs. Two previous attempts by the Lords to reinstate so-called "open lists" into the European Parliamentary Elections Bill have been overturned by the Commons. But the Government's attempt to compromise, by promising a review of the electoral system after the poll, failed to win over peers.

If agreement is not reached by the end of next week, when the parliamentary session formally ends, the Bill would die. This could throw the elections into chaos.

Even if the Government reintroduced the same Bill later this month and used the Parliament Act to push it through without the Lords' consent, the legislation might still not be ready for the June poll.



A Jerusalem father helps his daughter try on a gas mask at one of the distribution centres opened in Israel as fears of an Iraqi retaliatory attack grew

Britons urged to leave Iraq as force looks 'inevitable'

By Michael Evans, Michael Binyon and Jill Sherman

ALL Britons were given a warning yesterday to leave Iraq and news organisations were told not to send journalists to the country as large-scale military attacks appeared inevitable.

At the same time, the Government issued a dossier to every MP outlining Iraq's secret weapons hoard and describing the potential threat from Iraq if these programmes are left unchecked.

In Israel, from where hundreds of British holidaymakers were being brought home by tour companies, the Israeli Army's Home Front Command opened 60 centres to distribute new and replacement gas masks and anti-chemical warfare kits to Israeli citizens.

At Cabinet yesterday, the Prime Minister and George Robertson, Defence Secretary, briefed ministerial colleagues on the latest developments in the confrontation with President Saddam Hussein over UN weapons inspections.

Tony Blair said "the next step is action" unless the Iraqi President agreed to co-operate. Mr Robertson told the Cabinet there was evidence Saddam had "weaponised" nerve agents and that deadly warheads could be produced. After the meeting, he spoke of the "sad inevitability" of force being used if the Iraqi leader did not back down soon.

The dossier to MPs, accompanied by a letter signed on behalf of Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office Minister, and Doug Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, stated that Saddam's weapons of mass destruction were a symbol of his power and prestige in the region and that he would rebuild his weapons programme unless stopped.

It reminded the MPs that until 1995, the Iraqi leader had denied having an offensive biological weapons programme, adding: "The quantities of biological growth media that are unaccounted for are enough to produce more than three times the total amount of anthrax Iraq admits to producing."

Unless stopped, the dossier said, Saddam would be capable of regenerating a chemical weapons capability within months, and a biological weapons capability "within weeks".

It continued: "A single Scud missile armed with a VX (nerve gas) warhead could cause thousands of casualties if it hit a crowded city."

As a further sign of the increasing likelihood of a military strike by American and British forces, the Government urged Britons in Iraq to leave immediately, specifically naming journalists. Neither in 1991 before the last flare-up — in February — were journalists singled out.

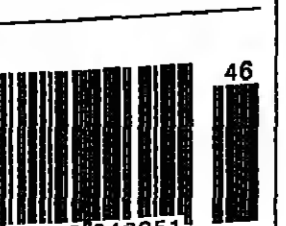
The Foreign Office said the decision was at the request of ministers concerned that the Iraqis would not guarantee their safety. In another signal of imminent airstrikes, the Foreign Office announced that Robin Cook would cancel a proposed Middle East visit next week if he thought it pointless. He plans to go to Egypt and Saudi Arabia to try to persuade them to put pressure on Saddam — but only if it was felt that they could change Saddam's mind. Officials insisted there was no intention to seek basting rights.

However, at the Cabinet meeting, Mr Blair said there had been a change in the Arab world since Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, fixed a last-minute deal with Saddam in Iraq earlier this year to avert US force — because of progress on Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and a realisation that Saddam was "becoming more unpredictable".

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Irish eyes frown on British wedding guests

By Audrey Mace, Ireland Correspondent

BRITISH men and women were barred yesterday from holding their pre-nuptial revelries in Dublin's trendy Temple Bar.

Thirty-four hotels and pubs in the centre of the Irish capital banned the rowdy stag and hen parties after a report revealed that their behaviour turns hundreds of other tourists off Dublin, costing businesses about £57 million a year.

sands of Britons who every weekend go to Dublin weekend. The wedding parties, often dressed as priests, nuns or sexy nurses, start drinking in the morning, moving from pub to pub and becoming more raucous as the weekend wears on. Future brides and grooms are regularly stripped and tied to lamp-posts while their friends often pick fights with passers-by.

Now tourism chiefs have discovered that the parties are putting off other visitors. A survey published yesterday found that 13 per cent of overseas visitors said the stag and hen weekends would discourage them from visiting Dublin — representing a £57 million loss in income each year.

The pubs and hotels have decided that the stag and hen parties are not worth the loss in custom, since they buy nothing but alcohol and spend little on accommodation. Three quarters of Dublin's hotels already refuse them rooms as they break bedroom furni-

ture and disturb the other guests. Laura Magaly, managing director of the company overseeing Temple Bar development, said: "We do not want to be discourteous to our British neighbours whom we welcome to the area but we are sick of seeing people running riot, talking their clothes off and chaining themselves to lamp-posts."

Martin Keane, owner of Oliver St John Gogarty pub in Temple Bar, is one of the bars banning the British revellers. "We have invested heavily in our premises and we want to ensure that the area will remain attractive."

INSIDE

New hope of Ulster deal

The Government opened the way for the first decommissioning of paramilitary weapons in Northern Ireland by formally recognising the Loyalist Volunteer Force's ceasefire.

Mo Mowlam's announcement raised hopes of a breakthrough in the deadlock over IRA disarmament that is preventing implementation of the peace accord. Page 2

Nursery pair in sex ring

Two nursery teachers who allegedly abused more than 60 children in their care — some as young as two — were probably part of a paedophile ring, an investigation of the Shieldfield nursery in Newcastle upon Tyne has concluded. Page 6

Expenses check

Church of England bishops are to have their expenses scrutinised to see if they really need £8 million a year for chauffeurs, gardeners, chaplains and secretaries. Page 5

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Lib-Dem who can make up his mind proves a noble exception

The Noble Exception had entered the Lords Chamber some time before the debate began, but already it was standing-room only. Peers littered the aisles and lounged against the railings. Some sat on the steps to the Throne, like travellers at a railway station. One (Lord Sewell) actually lay back on the Woolsack. Several sat in the gangways, one elderly baron getting down on to the floor with such difficulty that when a seat was finally vacated for him, he was unable to get up again. The Noble Ex-

ception surveyed the scene. Everybody was there — from the functional part of our Constitution, like the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the ceremonial part, like Melvyn Bragg. The dangerous part was there too, represented by Lord Tebbit. Inexplicably, Lord Donoghue, the late Harold Wilson's Head of Policy Unit, wore one black shoe and one white. Lord Williams of Mostyn, the fluent and divided minister whose cross it is to bear the European Parliamentary Elections Bill, stared

crossly into space: Baron Fed-Up. The Noble Exception needed a seat. Just in time for the start of the debate on closed lists, a seat was found on the Liberal Democrat benches. The Noble Exception sat down, looking tense. Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, a Conservative former-MP with a gracefully post-Scotts accent, opened the baiting for their Lordships' mutinous amendment. He spoke with elegance and humour — and a light touch for his task was to lure shy

and undomesticated Cross-benches — creatures whom nobody owns, the *ferae naturae* of the Upper Forest — out of their wild wood and into an Opposition honey-trap. Down with "the Millbank Tendency"! The choice before peers was between "the people's choice and the party choice!" declared Lord Mackay, as scores of crusty

old Tory barons behind him thrilled to their new-found reverence for the popular will, memories of the Smith Square Tendency conveniently slipping their minds. Mackay coined a new phrase. Alongside new Labour he now discerned "new Liberal Democrats; for Paddy Ashdown's ermined cavalry, groaning under a post-pact

three-line whip, were grinding teeth and voting with the Government. Or, rather, most of them were. But said Mackay, with "a few noble exceptions". The Noble Exception sat impassive. After Mackay, Lord Shore of Stepney spoke well, exhorting the closed list, suddenly shouting words, as my Grandpa used to. Then he sat down, to an approving general moo. Glancing nervously at a note the Noble Exception rose. The Earl Russell had guessed that to rebel against

his Party's docility would cost him his front bench job as Social Security Spokesman, but he could not stomach the closed list. How should he vote? "I have never changed my mind so many times," said the Noble Exception. "I changed it five times yesterday," he went on, before deciding finally to vote against. "I had settled upon abstaining by lunch yesterday," he added — and for a moment we feared his Lordship might take us through each swing of the intellectual see-saw, wobble by wobble, like one of

those *Sunday Times* "anatomy of a crisis" diaries: 7.00am: Lord Russell breakfasts on Weetabix and toast, discussing vote with wife Elizabeth. 7.23: decides to buckle under. 8.15: telephones a friend and changes mind: post arrives... But he spared us the chronology. In a short speech as dryly undramatic as it was brave, he led us within minutes to his conclusion. He was to make trouble. He did. He was sacked from one of his jobs. Then he was un-sacked. Somebody else can't make up their mind.



LVF arms move puts pressure on Sinn Fein

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government opened the way yesterday for the first decommissioning of paramilitary weapons in Northern Ireland by formally recognising the six-month ceasefire of the Loyalist Volunteer Force. The announcement by Mr Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, raised hopes of a breakthrough in the deadlock over IRA disarmament that is preventing implementation of the Good Friday peace accord. The LVF has promised to decommission a "small but very real amount" of weaponry in front of the television cameras within two weeks of the Government recognising its ceasefire and making its two dozen prisoners eligible for early release. That will put intense pressure on the IRA to follow suit, enabling David Trimble finally to admit Sinn Fein to Northern Ireland's Government.

LVF disarmament would put pressure on the IRA and said the LVF ceasefire had to be treated with "a huge dose of scepticism". Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's chairman, said the Red Hand Defenders, a new Loyalist group that killed a Catholic in Belfast two weeks ago, was a "flag of convenience" for the LVF. Kenny McClinton, the terrorist-turned-pastor who speaks for the LVF, confirmed that LVF disarmament would begin "within a couple of weeks" and is to meet John de Chastelain, head of the international disarmament body, today. He challenged the IRA to match the LVF's disarmament on a one-to-one ratio. "If you are looking at the thing from a totally honorable position, then the IRA have got to respond."

Mr McClinton has said that all arrangements for the initial decommissioning of LVF weaponry have been agreed with General de Chastelain, LVF members delivering the arms would have immunity. Mr McClinton would stay with the weapons until they were put into a metal shredder, probably in Belfast, to ensure there was no forensic testing. The first batch is likely to consist of a couple of AK-47 assault rifles and other firearms. David Trimble, the First Minister who had been pressing for yesterday's announcement, said he hoped this "positive step will lead to the start of decommissioning. It's now incumbent on everyone to exert what influence they have on the other paramilitary organisations to make a start."



DIANA, Countess of Lindsay, holds her five-year-old son David at the British Red Cross Care in Crisis awards, where she received an award for saving the life of her son, who was lying unconscious in a water culvert. The people of Omagh - the Northern Ireland town ripped apart by a bomb earlier this year - were presented with a special community award. Representatives from the local Omagh hospital and council were today presented

with awards at a ceremony in London. Awards were also presented to 16 winners from all over the United Kingdom for individual acts of bravery and care. John McKinney, chief executive of Omagh District Council. Glynis Henry, senior nurse at Tyrone County Hospital and David Bolton, Director of Health and Personal Social Services Trust in Omagh collected the accolade on behalf of the town. The blast on August 15 killed 20 people and injured more than 200 others. The Real IRA said it carried out the attack. Celebrities Helen Mirren, Nerys Hughes, Claire Rayner, John Stapleton and Angela Rippon presented the awards.

Countess honoured for rescue

NEWS IN BRIEF

Doctor charged with two more murders

A doctor in Greater Manchester appeared before magistrates charged with murdering two more of his elderly female patients. Earlier yesterday police had exhumed a ninth body. Harold Shipman, 52, who runs a one-man practice in Hyde, Tameside, has been charged with killing Ivy Lomas, 63, and Marie Quinn, 67, in addition to four other murder charges. His appearance before Tameside magistrates came hours after detectives exhumed the body of Jean Lilley, 58, from Hyde cemetery. He was due to appear at court in seven days to be remanded but Dr Shipman was excused having to attend. A committal hearing was fixed for January 7. Dr Shipman, of Roe Cross Green, Mottram, is alleged to have killed Mrs Lomas on May 29 last year and Mrs Quinn on November 24. He spoke only briefly to confirm his name and address during the five-minute hearing. His wife Primrose, 51, sat at the back of the court.

Pinochet verdict delayed

The House of Lords has reserved judgment on whether General Pinochet enjoys, as a former head of state, immunity against charges of genocide, terrorism and torture. A panel of five senior law lords said that they would deliver their opinion "in due course" on the appeal by the Crown Prosecution Service on behalf of Spain against a High Court ruling that the former Chilean dictator's arrest was unlawful. The judgment is expected next week.

Fight to keep jail baby

A prisoner who gave birth under guard has launched a legal bid to stop her new-born baby being taken away from her in a test case over a mother's right to keep her child in jail. She is trying to block a decision to refuse her a place in the mother and baby unit at Holloway prison, North London. Miss E. 24, who may not be identified for legal reasons, is serving five years for wounding with intent after slashing the face of a rival.

Davies questioned further

Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary, has been questioned several more times by Scotland Yard detectives investigating his mugging on an estate in Brixton, South London. Investigators need Mr Davies to fill in gaps in his story that stretch over three or four hours. One man has been charged with robbery and another five people have been questioned before being freed on police bail. Today Mr Davies will face his constituency party to explain the events.

Umbrella coverage

People taking their summer holidays in Britain can now insure against rain, Rothwell and Towler, of Devon, will pay part of the cost of any holiday in which it rains on at least half the days. The cover will not cost holidaymakers any extra because it comes as part of a holiday-cancellation package sold through hotels for about £19 for a family. The policies are underwritten by Eagle Star and will cover all parts of the country, not just the drier south.

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Severed spinal cord 'glued' together

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS have repaired severed spinal cords by using a new technique to fuse the broken ends together. The development is so far confined to test-tube experiments with spinal cords from guinea pigs but is intended ultimately to benefit spinal injury victims such as the actor Christopher Reeve, who was paralysed in a riding accident. The researchers say it is the first time the severed spinal cords of mammals have been

given back their ability to transmit electrical nerve impulses. Spinal cords were removed from guinea pigs, cut, and fused together with polyethylene glycol, a water-soluble polymer used in medicines and cosmetics. Tests showed that all the repaired cords were able to conduct an electric current simulating nerve messages. Richard Borgens, professor of developmental anatomy at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana, said: "This technique is likely to be useful in treating recent injuries."

Whitehall considers more pay for good teachers

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER AND JILL SHERMAN

TEACHERS' pay may be partly linked to their schools' results under radical proposals being considered by ministers, Whitehall sources said yesterday. Schools would be rewarded for reaching government targets, such as for improved exam results, reduced truancy and exclusions, and an increased number of pupils staying on at school after 16. It is thought that head teachers would be expected to feed

the extra money as bonuses into a "modernised" salary structure, to be outlined in a consultation document next month. Doug McAvoy, leader of the National Union of Teachers, said such a system would not be a fair measure of a teacher's skills. "The measure of quality of a teacher cannot be based on the results of pupils."

However, Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "What's wrong with the country investing in success, given that we ensure that less successful schools are getting the money they need too?" Whitehall sources last night described reports of the scheme as "speculative" but confirmed that school results could play some part in determining teachers' pay. A tough new system of appraisal is expected to be the main method of setting teachers' pay.

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Church is to check bishops' £8m expenses

THE expenses of the Church of England's bishops are to be scrutinised to see if they really need nearly £8 million a year to pay for chauffeurs, gardeners, chaplains and teams of secretaries.

The wide-ranging review will examine their "staffing and equipment needs" for the next millennium.

It was set up by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and follows growing concern at the rising costs of maintaining the church's 108 bishops, many of whom live in large palaces.

The cost of episcopal administration, paid by the church commissioners, has risen from £3.9 million in 1988 to £8.1 million last year. £4.9 million was spent on staffing costs and £3 million on other working expenses.

Meanwhile, the amount of money given by the commissioners to support the ministry of the country's 9,500 stipendiary clergy fell from £57.4 million to £19.5 million between 1988 and 1997.

The cost of clergy pensions has almost doubled over the same period, to £82.1 million, a sum paid entirely by the commissioners.

Most of the bishops' expenses — 84 per cent — goes on staff and the rest on equipment, hospitality and travel. Diocesan bishops receive the heating, lighting, cleaning, house and garden items they need to keep the business of being a bishop running smoothly and efficiently.

All working costs will be examined to establish the bishops' staffing and equipment needs for the next century. A spokesman for the church commissioners said: "The review is to do with working costs, it is not to do with fringe benefits."

"Bishops do not receive fringe benefits. The bishops' costs are a statutory charge on the commissioners. If we did

Review will look at staff needs and living costs for the next century, writes Ruth Gledhill

not meet them, the dioceses would have to meet them. Everyone is trying to make sure the resources are used in the best possible way."

The wide-ranging review, launched by Dr Carey along with the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, will be chaired by Anthony Mellows, emeritus professor of law at London University and a committed Anglican.

Professor Mellows described the review as "vital to the future good of the Church's ministry."

He said: "I am assembling a team with comprehensive expertise and broad experience. I am especially pleased to serve in this way the leaders of the Church in which I have so happily worshipped for so many years."

The working party will not consider the subject of bishops' stipends, which average



Baker: he urged a more modest lifestyle for bishops

out at between £23,000 and £27,000, nor housing. Neither will it look at the costs of bishops' palaces, currently being scrutinised in a separate review which is nearing completion.

Instead, the independent committee, which has been set up outside the auspices of the church commissioners, will concentrate on "resource needs facing the leadership of the Church of England for the new millennium and beyond." Professor Mellows will report directly to the two Archbishops in 2000.

Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, who has asked at least ten oral and written questions in the House of Commons on the subject of bishops' expenses, welcomed the review.

He said: "It is hardly consistent with the Christian ethic for bishops to cost so much and to employ chauffeurs and gardeners. A more modest lifestyle would better reinforce the basic tenets of Christianity."

A spokeswoman for Dr Carey, who has one personal secretary and seven senior staff, all with their own secretaries, said the review was not intended to examine bishops' current expenses.

She said: "This is a proactive move to make sure the Church of England is properly resourced for the new millennium."

She said not all bishops had drivers, some preferring to drive themselves. Those who did have drivers used their time in the back of the car to write sermons or catch up on administrative and other essential work.

She added: "This is a very positive look at the Church's ministry at a time of growing demand."

"It is not looking at what they are using now, it is looking at what they are going to need in future in terms of staffing and equipment."



Mike Fitzgerald encouraged students to teach themselves. Inspectors said standards were the worst they had come across

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

BRITAIN'S youngest and most eccentric university vice-chancellor, who sported feathery bleached hair and a lozenge-shaped earring, yesterday resigned from Thames Valley University after becoming the first victim of a new quality inspection team.

Mike Fitzgerald, 47, whose rare sense of coiffure won him the title of worst haired on television, established his zany reputation after endorsing diplomas in kite flying and rock music and encouraging the university to sponsor a Brentford FC football match.

But yesterday higher education watchdogs declared that standards at the university were the worst they had ever come across and were now "under threat".

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Vice-chancellor quits as university fails inspection

has said there was evidence that the university, based at campuses in Ealing and Slough, fell short of the criteria for awarding its own degrees. It stated that "it is vital steps are taken urgently to protect the interests of current students and to secure public confidence in the university".

During his seven-year tenure at the university, formerly the Polytechnic of West London, Mr Fitzgerald pioneered a revolutionary style of learning, in which pupils taught themselves at their own pace.

It caused outrage among staff. Upon reading the report, which sources at the agency described as the most "distinctly unusual" they had written, Mr Fitzgerald stepped down. "I have done this in the interests of the university and its continuing development," he said.

The report found "some evidence that the university may have lost sight of some basic principles of quality assurance which should be commonplace in an institution with independent degree-awarding powers". The QAA

emphasised, however, that there was "no evidence that individual students have been awarded degrees they should have failed". Once granted by the Privy Council, a university's degree-awarding powers cannot be withdrawn. Instead, the agency said the university required "independent supervision to direct its recovery and secure the standard of its awards".

The Higher Education Funding Council for England today appointed a team led by Sir William Taylor, former vice-chancellor of the University of Hull, and Mr Quentin Thompson, of the accountants PricewaterhouseCoopers, to oversee an action plan for the university. It will involve monthly checks on the financial viability of the university, at which the intake of undergraduates this year was 30 per cent below target.

Extra cash for schools to hire bilingual helpers

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

SCHOOLS with a large number of ethnic minority pupils are to be given extra money to employ bilingual classroom assistants, the Government announced yesterday.

Schools will also be expected to draw up action plans of how to improve their teaching of such children.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said that an extra £430 million is to be spent on the teaching of minorities over the next three years after extensive research has shown that black and Asian pupils are more likely to underperform than their white counterparts. Specific help for these groups, which had already cost £138.5 million this year, was vital to raising standards.

"Children from ethnic minorities are an important and vibrant part of today's Britain and it is vital that we ensure they have the same opportunities as everyone else," he said. "Many Asian children achieve very good results — better than average."

But too many children from ethnic minorities were underperforming. "If you are black or of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origins, your chance of gaining five good GCSEs is half that of white pupils."

He said that the money would go directly to schools to enable them to employ more teachers and teaching assistants to work with their local communities.

The Education Department said that bilingual classroom assistants would not teach pupils in their native language but they would be able to help those who were struggling to understand English.

Statistics show that only 23 per cent of Pakistani/Bangladeshi and black young people gain at least five GCSEs at grades A-C compared with 46 per cent of whites. Indians and Chinese, however, perform better than whites.

Leading article, page 23

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Jail staff tell of misery inflicted by children

By Dominic Kennedy and Richard Ford

IT WAS a brave experiment: take some of the toughest children in the country, put them together into a caring domestic environment, and encourage them to face up to the errors of their ways.

The philosophy of Britain's first privately run children's jail was summarised in the name of the Group 4 company which runs it - Rebound ECD, standing for Education, Care, Discipline.

Hopes were high when the first children, aged 12 to 14, arrived in April. The staff of 100 had been carefully chosen for their cool tempers. Some were custody officers, social workers, teachers and nurses. Others wanted to work with children, their only previous experience being leading Scout packs.

Seven months on, the Medway Secure Training Centre in Rochester, Kent, is in turmoil. When the children, who had to be addressed as "trainees" rather than "inmates", arrived they expected a harsh regime.

"They were all really frightened and scared," said a woman supervisor, who left after being thumped by a girl. "We were all very naive and idealistic. We were told that they

would be disturbed children and that we would be able to make a difference to them."

Mike Taylor, 46, a training supervisor who was paid £17,000 a year, said: "My job was to deliver a crime-avoidance programme. It was supposed to be an hour a day. They just said, 'F--- off, we're not doing it.' They ripped the paper up, broke pens or pencils and tipped the tables over."

"The only way I could get their attention was to ask them to tell me about crime. They educated me about fake Rolexes and burglary."

"I watched a young man completely trash a classroom. He broke every pane of glass after barricading a door and then went on to break tables, chairs and filing cabinets. He used a leg broken from a table as a weapon and gouged plaster out of the wall."

"I got bitten three times by a girl who chewed my left arm because I told her not to pull a blind down."

He left in July because of family problems. "When it first started they had high ideals but I became disappointed because the back-up was not there, and we were not prepared for dealing with such vi-

olent young people." Another ex-employee said: "The place was built like a school and unfortunately it should have been built like a prison."

Up to 40 children are looked after in two banana-shaped, two-storey blocks. Their rooms, which staff are forbidden from calling cells, have en-suite showers. Some of the children have left taps running all day, after blocking the drains with paper to cause floods.

"We took the knobs off the cookers so they used their teeth to turn the cookers on and set fire to paper," an ex-employee said.

They are allowed outdoors only when moving between buildings, in case they try to escape over the two perimeter fences, which are 4.8 metres high. Two children escaped by scaling the fine mesh fences, taking only three minutes, as staff watched in astonishment.

The regime was flawed because the staff who were expected to nurture the children also had to lock them in their rooms. "You had to be everything: their care worker, their friend, *in loco parentis*, and you still had to bang them up at night whether they wanted to go or not," said the woman ex-employee.

A riot in June proved the turning point. A supervisor said: "I cheered when the police arrived." The officers wore riot gear and brought dogs. The staff were in their uniforms. "The police were amazed that we were supposed to deal with it in a green polo shirt and a pair of beige trousers."

Afterwards, prison warders from Liverpool were brought in. A former supervisor said: "You know what prison officers do: they get you in a hold and they can hurt you. They are the only ones the kids have any respect for."

A spokeswoman for Rebound denied that prison officers used extra force: "There are very clear rules of engagement because of the age group. The children know their rights."



Sue Clifton, director of the Medway Secure Training Centre, with staff in their uniforms. Police wore riot gear when they were called to the unit



Each "trainee" has a room with en-suite shower

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A YOUNG OFFENDER

Monday to Friday

7.30: woken by staff, bedrooms tidied, breakfast.
8.50: gym and lessons.
10.30: mid-morning break.
12.00: back to living units.
12.15: two units lunch, two others wash and iron clothes.
12.50: two other units to lunch.
13.20-13.30: inmates escorted back to education block.
16.30-17.15: back in house unit, homework, supervised visits.
17.15: evening meal.
18.30: social education aimed at improving communication skills, learn teamwork sports.

18.30-20.30: supervised visits.
20.30: inmates back to living units.
20.30-21.30: supper. Meetings with staff on achieving targets.
21.30: bedtime.
22.00: lights out.

Weekend routine

8.00: woken, beds made, breakfast, dishes washed.
9.00-21.00: work to deal with anti-social behaviour, family visits, five-a-side football, basketball and individual counselling.
21.00: meetings with trainers to look at problems.
22.00: lights out.

Last resort for boy who kept defying the law

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

LEE is 14 and already has a criminal record stretching back years.

He arrived at the training centre after being convicted of 16 serious offences including burglary, theft, assault and taking and driving away. A further 51 other offences were taken into consideration by magistrates who ordered him to attend Medway Secure Training Centre.

Lee had seven previous convictions but for years had regarded himself as beyond the reach of the law. He believed that he was "untouchable".

He had previously been given three supervision orders, a community sentence that is the last chance before being locked up. Under the supervision order an offender is required to attend courses, such

as drug treatment, or can be given tuition at home.

Lee had been formally breached twice for failing to comply with the terms of the order and had a long history of running away from local authority homes. His youth justice worker wrote in a presentence report that there was a risk that he would reoffend unless he was put in a secure environment.

In spite of this warning to the court, the report said: "I would ask the court to consider dealing with him by means of a new supervision order."

Lee (which is not his real name) had minimum contact with his mother. Although she was supportive of him, she recognised that he was beyond her control. He had had no contact with his father for sev-

eral years. The case is typical of the 60 children aged 12-14 who have been through Medway.

Many are illiterate, though adept at using computers. One 13-year-old had been playing truant, or been excluded from school, for six years.

Figures show that on average each of the 60 children had spent three years either playing truant or excluded from school before arriving at Medway and each had been convicted of an average seven serious offences. One 12-year-old had 15 convictions.

Fifty-four of the 60 had been in care immediately before being sent to Medway. Forty-five of the 54 had run away from care in the past and 42 of the 54 had records of violence.

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4 Bedroom detached house	For around £750	For around £550

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ANGLO PERSTAN...

Hidden village fights for its low-tech life

AT the age of 16, Martha Orbach says she has been through her period of teenage rebellion.

Living in an "eco-village" in West Wales, though, she could hardly run away and join a band of New Age travellers as contemporaries elsewhere might have done. Instead, she said: "What I wanted were washing machines and a big fridge. I wanted my parents to wear shell suits and drive a big smart car."

"But every time I tried to rebel, my parents just said, 'Go on, get on with it, we're not going to stop you.' It wasn't easy, though I did my best to worry them sick for a couple of years."

Martha, who has two A levels and is studying for a third despite never having spent a day in school, says her revolt stopped once she accepted and understood what her parents were trying to do.

Now the 22 residents of her community near Newport in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park hope the rest of the world will feel the same way.

They have been inundated with offers of support and even financial assistance since *The Times* revealed that planners had ordered the demolition of their experimental straw and turf huts. Although they will appeal, the chances of success are slim.

The eco-village was spotted by the pilot of an aircraft carrying out an survey of unauthorised development in the national park. Its dozen buildings, carefully concealed from the

'Lost tribe' hopes outside support will help it to fight off demolition, reports Simon de Bruxelles

road by screens of trees, were given away by the glint of sunlight from a solar panel.

For thousands of years people have been building strange structures in the shadow of Mount Carmel in the Prescelly Hills. Few, however, are stranger than the buildings of Brithdir Mawr, which owe much to their prehistoric predecessors. It is not just their design and the use of local materials, but the concept that homes can be part of the countryside rather than imposed upon it.

Brithdir Mawr's founders, Marsha's parents Julian and Emma Orbach, bought the 165-acre farm, complete with derelict buildings, for £150,000 five years ago. They recruited like-minded friends and set to work rebuilding the farm-house and turning the cowshed into an award-winning hostel for ramblers.

But their ambitions did not end there. Mr Orbach, 46, an architectural historian, had previously made unsuccessful attempts to be allowed to experiment with "low-impact", sustainable housing in the countryside. Convinced he would never get planning permission, this time he did not bother to apply.

"How do you explain to planners who think in terms of bungalows with lawns and at-

tached garages that you want to build a house out of mud and wood with a turf roof?" he asked. "What we wanted to do was to get the structures finished then invite the planners round so they could see and hopefully understand what we are trying to achieve."

Residents of Brithdir Mawr describe themselves as a community, not a commune. They do not pool their income, have their own kitchens and bathrooms and eat together only once a week.

They laugh at the description of themselves as the "lost tribe of Wales" because most have part-time jobs locally and never made a secret of where they live.

The ten adults and 12 children include Brent, an electrical engineer who rigged up submarine batteries charged by a windmill and solar panels to provide lighting; Ianto, a Mancunian builder responsible for many of the structures; and Chris Reynolds, 54, a farmer who wanted to try working with the land rather than exploiting it.

Since Brithdir Mawr's "discovery", the outside world has been beating a path to Tony Wrench's round house, built of clay and timber and roofed with straw and turf.

Yesterday, a television crew from BBC Wales and the producer of a documentary series were the latest guests to share

bowls of vegetable soup and homemade bread with the former local government officer. Elsewhere students from the University of Glamorgan studying environmental development were being given a guided tour of Brithdir Mawr. Inside the hut a wood-burning stove made out of a milk churn provides warmth and hot water, which is stored in an old whisky barrel. The floors of beaten earth have dried hard and its 360-degree windows are the recycled windscreens of old coaches. The entire structure cost him just £2,500 to build and is all but invisible from more than a few yards away.

Mr Wrench, who shares the hut with his girlfriend, Jane Faith, said: "If it's not the cheapest house in Britain, it must be the best value. Though if I have to knock it down again I may have to reconsider that statement."

"Absolutely nothing is wasted. We have a compost toilet and the sink drains into reed beds which act as filters. Apart from the glass, everything is made out of natural materials."

Mr Wrench spends his time coppicing the neglected wood-

lands, turning wooden plies and bowls to sell in the hostel, and working on his ideas for a "permaculture" that would enable the countryside to be repopulated without being destroyed.

As he lugged timber to the horse-drawn cart, Mr Orbach contrasted the planners' ban on the innovative buildings, which include a geodesic dome, a stove and turf goat-hut and a half-built straw-bale house, with their blind eye to more traditional blots on the landscape. Farmsteads elsewhere were littered with out-houses of breeze blocks and corrugated asbestos, rusting cars, mildewed caravans propped up on bricks and, said Mr Orbach, "don't forget the rotting Reliant Robins".

At Brithdir Mawr they have been ordered to fill in a recently excavated duck pond and demolish the ingenious turf and timber bicycle shed.

It is hard work being an eco-villager, besides the ever-present mud and the danger of falling into the compost lavatory. Without the benefit of modern appliances, Marsha spends a lot of her time sawing wood and doing household chores. She shares the main house with the other teenager, 16-year-old Sita.

Down the path, the academics were sliding about ankle deep in silt, admiring the house of straw. Behind them, was one sight not on their itinerary: the yellow carcass of a rotting Reliant Robin, decaying discreetly out of sight.



Martha Orbach at Brithdir Mawr: she has two A levels, but has never been to school

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bus crash injures 37 pupils

Thirty-seven children were taken to hospital after their double-decker bus was in collision with another bus on the way to school. A fleet of ambulances took the children, aged 11 to 16, to Rotherham District Hospital. The pupils, from Aston Comprehensive School, Sheffield, suffered shock, minor cuts and bruising. Three buses were also injured. The buses collided at a junction controlled by traffic lights. Police are investigating.

Goalie fined

The Liverpool goalkeeper David James, 28, was fined £800 by Calderdale magistrates for driving at 102mph on the M62 in West Yorkshire. James, twice banned for speeding, had just collected a new Jaguar from Hull.

114th birthday

Britain's oldest person celebrated her 114th birthday yesterday. Annie Jennings, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, won her place in *The Guinness Book of Records* this year after her MP, Tony Benn, contacted the publishers.

Sophie's choice

Vets took a 7in metal skewer from the stomach of a golden retriever that swallowed a kebab whole. "This must be the most expensive kebab ever. The vet's bills came to £400," said Andrew Kneller, of Portsmouth, Sophie's owner.

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Tony Wrench: absolutely nothing is wasted, he says



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Nursery staff 'were part of child sex ring'

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO nursery teachers who allegedly abused more than 60 children in their care were probably part of a paedophile ring, an investigation has concluded. Some of the victims were under two.

The inquiry into the activities of Christopher Lillie and Dawn Reed at the Shieldfield nursery in Newcastle upon Tyne during the early 1990s condemns the city council for the slack way it ran the school and monitored its staff.

Parents of at least 27 of the children now plan to bring legal action against the council for negligence.

The inquiry accuses the council of offering "little more than a poor child-minding service" and ignoring the concerns of parents who feared that their children were being abused. Its social services department had a "complacent and insular" attitude.

References were not checked thoroughly, records were either lost or not kept and senior managers at the nursery failed to question why Lillie or Reed removed children for alleged trips. The inquiry heard evidence that the children were taken to Lillie's home and other houses in Newcastle, where they were abused and videoed



Reed, above, and Lillie were sacked by council



in July 1994. The judge at the trial, Mr Justice Holland, ruled that the video evidence of the four-year-old girl, the oldest of the alleged victims, was inadmissible because of her age. The prosecution then offered no evidence.

Reed and Lillie were sacked for gross misconduct by the city council. They are both believed to still be living on Tyneside. Reed has since married and Lillie is understood to have changed his name.

In a 350-page report published yesterday, an independent team headed by Richard Barker, head of the Division of Child Family Studies at the University of Northumbria in Newcastle, found that more than 1,400 children came into contact with the two during their time at the nursery.

The team concludes that Lillie "took every opportunity to abuse the children" and that Reed "was party to it". The report adds: "As well as Christopher Lillie and Dawn Reed, it is clear that others outside the nursery were involved in abusing children for their own gratification and probably also for the production of pornographic material. These people have never been found."

The review, which has taken four years to complete, was launched after the court case



At a press conference unveiling the report yesterday, Newcastle council was criticised for its complacent attitude

collapsed four years ago. It says that there was confusion over Lillie's qualifications and doubts about his referees, but no police checks were made about either's background. Lillie had been the probable victim of abuse when he was in care as a child.

It accuses Newcastle social services of "lamentable" management of its nurseries. The report also concludes that the nursery was run for the convenience of the staff and not the children, staff failed to recognise the distress among

the abused children, and that there was a failure to recognise the high number of so-called "accidents" that took place under the care of the abusers. One accident report book covering the period immediately before the abuse came to light has disappeared.

The team say that the four managers at Shieldfield, Peter Blythe, Joyce Eyeington, Susan Eyeington and Audrey Palmer, "must take some responsibility". The report adds: "Children's problems, even ones clearly indicative of sexu-

al abuse, were generally blamed on their families which resulted in abuse by nursery staff being undetected for longer than should have been the case and for some parents being inappropriately suspected of abuse.

"Staff were poorly trained in the nursery in relation to child protection and there appear to be no records kept of which staff had received training." The nursery had been "a vulnerable environment which Reed and Lillie had manipulated for their own purposes".

Tony Flynn, the leader of Newcastle council, said last night: "We have written to all concerned offering them the facility of our careline for support and advice and this is open to any parent or carer involved. There are lessons to be learnt by everyone concerned with child protection."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said that it had asked Newcastle City Council to provide it with an action plan detailing how it intended to respond to the inquiry's 75 recommendations.

'The wonderful years of his growing up have been stolen'

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE mother of a boy said to have been abused at the Shieldfield nursery said yesterday that she had been robbed of his years as a child.

He had started at the nursery in 1991 aged 18 months while his mother, a single parent now-45, was at work. Today he is in a special school after developing behavioural problems, which his mother blames on the abuse he suffered.

"He talks about sex in the way you might expect a teenager to talk," she said. "He wants to touch me" and his

grown-up sister and makes comments about our bodies. I am afraid to cuddle him for what he might do. We cannot go out socially.

"He was my little baby, I have had those wonderful years of his growing up taken away from me."

The mother said: "I believed my little boy was being looked after, but I began to be worried when he would come home in girl's clothing. When I asked why I was fobbed off with a story that he had wet himself or spit food, but his clothes were never returned."

"One day when I went in to the nursery they were chang-



The Shieldfield nursery: the inquiry report described it as a vulnerable environment

ing his nappy. When I went into the room there was a panic and they tried to order me out, but I refused to go and I watched them carefully. They all looked very flustered. "I cannot believe that no

one acted sooner. My son's life has been ruined. We live day by day. He sees a psychologist for five minutes every three months but that is not enough."

Another woman, aged 43, whose daughter was two when she was abused, said: "I will never understand as long as I live how these two people could get away with this type of abuse. When we visited the nursery we saw what we

thought was a safe and well-run establishment."

The girl's father, 44, said: "Our daughter will be eight on Saturday and, although this happened nearly six years ago, we are still feeling it."

The mother, whose small son was the first to talk about what was happening also spoke. Her child was two years and five months when he started at the nursery and suffered abuse for 11 months before it was uncovered.

The mother, 50, said: "My son is a very bright little boy. He was screaming at night, he became aggressive, even towards me and some nights he

would not even come into our own house after leaving nursery. He kept talking about having another mummy and kept wanting to know if I was his real mummy."

"Thankfully I picked up on certain things that he said. At last he told me they were hurting his bottom. Over the next few weeks I found out more and more from him."

"He had been cared around the homes of other perverts. Reed and Lillie were not the only people to abuse him. He spoke of a man in a wheelchair and another person he referred to as 'just a dafty man'."

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A history of Britain in 48 stamps

Monarchy is ignored in a new issue marking achievements of past 1,000 years, reports Mark Henderson

A DALEK, a tattooed Maori, a potato and Freddie Mercury have been chosen ahead of kings, queens, poets and painters to mark 1,000 years of British history in the Royal Mail's millennium stamp collection. The series launched yesterday is devoted to celebrating Britain's achievements, and is the biggest collection ever released in this country. It comprises 12 sets totalling 48 stamps, each on a different theme. Each stamp will be designed by one of Britain's foremost artists, such as Antony Gormley, David Hockney and Sir Eduardo Paolozzi. Damien Hirst was invited to take part but turned the offer down because he was too busy. The subjects, however, chosen by Jeremy Black, Professor of History at the University of Exeter, are bound to cause controversy. Royalty has been almost completely ignored, and there are few traditional "great men". Robert Bruce is the only King to get a stamp in his own right. James I gets in via the

Authorised Version of the Bible but there is no place for Alfred, Elizabeth I or Victoria. Generals, politicians and artists and writers also fare badly - Gladstone, Churchill, Wellington, Turner and Dickens all miss out. Science and technology, by contrast, is well represented. At least 20 of the stamps could be said to have a scientific theme, and individuals such as Darwin, Newton, Brunel, Turing and Edward Jenner (the latter drawn by Peter Brookes, the *Times* cartoonist) are included. Popular culture shares equal billing with the fine arts. The Entertainers' Tale set, to be issued in June, features the late pop star Freddie Mercury performing at Live Aid, a dalek from *Dr Who*, Charlie Chaplin (drawn by Ralph Steadman) and a depiction of Bobby Moore lifting the World Cup by Mike White, who draws *Roy of the Rovers*. The Maori appears alongside Captain Cook on a stamp marking the explorer's voyage



Clockwise from top left: timekeeping, steam power, jet travel, liberation, Cook, transport links, computers and photography

es by the artist Andrzej Klimowski, and the potato is an example of new foods on the design by Tessa Traeger. Peter Jennings, a stamp expert and fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, said he was "bitterly disappointed"

by the Royal Mail's choices. "Major landmarks in British history are notable by their absence," he said. "There is no battle of Hastings or Waterloo, yet there are some extraordinarily obscure things there."

Professor Black said that he had deliberately avoided too narrow a focus on political and military history. "I know some people will be upset that there is no Waterloo and no Queen Victoria, but we were not trying to present a political narrative," he said. "We have

gone for themes that show the development of Britain and the people who live here, the things that have changed the quality of people's lives." The stamps will be issued in batches of four every month next year.

THE MILLENNIUM TALES

Themes that sum up millennium Britain (artist's name in brackets):
Inventors' Tale (January)
Timekeeping and the Meridian (David Gentleman); steam power (Peter Howson); photography (Zafer and Barbara Baran); computers - Alan Turing (Sir Eduardo Paolozzi).
Travellers' Tale (February)
Jet travel - Sir Frank Whittle and de Havilland (George Hardie); the bicycle (Sara Fanelli); locomotion - Isambard Kingdom Brunel (John Lawrence); Captain Cook (Andrzej Klimowski).
Patients' Tale (March)
Vaccination - Edward Jenner (Peter Brookes); patient care - Florence Nightingale (Susan Macfarlane); penicillin - Alexander Fleming (Mike Dempsey); in-vitro fertilisation (Antony Gormley).
Settlers' Tale (April)
The Normans (John Byrne); The Pilgrim Fathers (Wilson McLean); emigration and colonisation (Jeff Fisher); immigration and Windrush (Gay Powell).
Workers' Tale (May)
Weaving (Peter Collingwood); the mill (David Hockney); shipbuilding (Bill Sanderson); the City of London (Brendan Neiland).
Entertainers' Tale (June)
Live Aid - Freddie Mercury (Peter Blake); *Dr Who* - Daleks (Justin Mortimer); Bobby Moore - as Roy of the Rovers (Mike White); Charlie Chaplin (Ralph Steadman).
Citizens' Tale (July)
The right to vote - suffragettes (Natasha Kent); the right to health - sanitation (Michael Craig-Martin); the right to learn - Robert Owen (Alan Drummond); Magna Carta (Alan Kitching).
Scientists' Tale (August)
DNA (Mike Curtis); Darwin (Ray Hains Ching); electricity (Colin Gray); Newton (to be confirmed).
Farmers' Tale (September)
Strip farming (David Triss); mechanised farming - Jethro Tull (Christopher Wormell); new foods - the potato (Tessa Traeger); farmland by satellite (Richard Cooke).
Soldiers' Tale (October)
Robert the Bruce (Andrew Davidson); the Civil War (Rod Kelly); war graves (Don McCullin); peacekeeping (Christopher Carr).
Christians' Tale (November - Christmas Stamps)
The Nativity (Craig Atchison); John Wesley (Brody Neuenhswander); the King James Bible (Clare Hellyer); St Andrew's Cathedral (Catherine Yass).
Artists' Tale (December)
Performing arts - Shakespeare (Allen Jones); music (Sridget Riley); visual arts (Howard Hodgkin); final stamp to be confirmed.

Nurses go nutty for good health

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR
EATING plenty of nuts can cut the risk of heart disease, an American study has shown. Nurses who ate nuts five times a week had a 35 per cent lower risk of heart disease when compared with those who ate them less than once a month. The data, published in the *British Medical Journal*, come from a study of 86,000 women, mostly nurses, between 1980 and 1990. Researchers from Harvard School of Public Health followed their health and asked them what they ate. The beneficial effect of the nuts may come from the unsaturated fats they contain, the team speculates. Alternatively, it may be that nut-eating is a "marker" for a healthy lifestyle that includes exercise and fruit as well as nuts. The team corrected for these confounding factors as far as they could and found that the beneficial effect of nuts persisted. They conclude that nuts can be considered part of a healthy diet. In a commentary in the journal, Professor Hugh Tunstall-Pedoe, of Dundee University, says the new evidence rehabilitates the nut, often seen as an unhealthy snack food.

Suicide is linked to birth pain

By OUR SCIENCE EDITOR
A PAINFUL birth increases the risk of suicide in adult life, a Swedish study has found. Two Swedish professors compared the birth experiences of 242 adults who took their own lives by violent means with 403 siblings who did not. In the *British Medical Journal* they report that a common feature among the suicides was a difficult birth. That included the use of forceps, the need for resuscitation and breech presentation at birth. The suicides had experienced twice as many interventions at birth as their siblings. They also found that the mothers of babies who subsequently killed themselves had longer labours and fewer painkillers. Professors Bertil Jacobson and Marc Bygdemann believe that a "traumatic" birth "imprints" a pattern of behaviour in which individuals unconsciously seek a similarly traumatic experience in suicide. The hypothesis wins little support from Louis Appleby, Professor of Psychiatry at Manchester University, who says in the *BMJ* that violent suicides are linked with severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and manic depression. A difficult birth is also linked to the same mental disorders, probably as a result of an oxygen shortage at birth.

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Lady Hurd: could not eat so fast on recipe books

Judy Hurd tells how she fought leukaemia

JUDY HURD, the wife of the former Tory Foreign Secretary Lord Hurd of Westwell, has revealed how a diet of cook books and television chefs have helped her fight leukaemia (Mark Ingfield writes). Because chemotherapy depletes the immune system, her diet was restricted and had to be overcooked to kill bacteria. "Food is full of bugs friendly to the healthy person, but not to those of us languishing in Ward 5E," she writes in this week's Spectator. "The restrictions brought on an insatiable interest in cookery. As many of my fellow patients seemed to lose interest in food, I stubbornly retained it through those four long months of chemotherapy. She also made a promise to a friend who rang from a Cornish quay to say she was collecting lobsters: 'I vowed to be on that quay in summer 1999.'"

United we stand, divided we fail, Blair tells Scots

TONY BLAIR last night presented his vision of a Britain unified through generations by common values and shared ideals that should not be sacrificed to the "narrow politics of identity" and separatism. In an emotional speech in Glasgow that marked the launch of Labour's campaign for the Scottish parliament elections in May next year, Mr Blair said the historic solidarity of the British people must triumph over separatism.

Ideals must not be sacrificed in election for identity, Labour warns. Shirley English reports

In the coming months we will try to put the case for the politics of social justice to overcome the narrow politics of identity.

He said in this week following Remembrance Sunday every one carried an awareness of history and of the experiences and institutions that in Britain we share — for we are all united in remembering the great sacrifices that the nations of these islands have together made in times of great peril. We stood together to defeat fascism and we worked together to build a welfare state.

He said: "Throughout this century, in the time when working people earned their living by the skills of their hands and the strength of their back, throughout Britain they were united in their struggle against unemployment. Whether it was the Upper Clyde shipyard workers or the Jarrow marchers, all asserted the dignity and decency of work. These common bonds and mutual interests endure in a different world today."

New Labour's vision was one of a country united by common purpose and derived from shared values, that make Scotland stronger with Britain and Britain stronger with Scotland.

Devolution, he said, had safeguarded the distinctiveness and democratic control of Scottish institutions. As a result the Nationalists could no longer argue that Scottish nationhood was under threat. Instead they had been forced to claim that the values of the Scots were so different from the rest of Britain that new barriers should be established.

Mr Blair said his own family history illustrated how integrated Britain was. Born in Scotland, he had lived most of his life in England. His mother was Irish, his father English but both were raised in Scotland. "We are bound together. Why set us apart?"

He said the Nationalists continued to argue that Scottishness was diminished by any connection with the rest of Britain. "While Labour is investing in the NHS, the nationalists would first invest in the apparatus of a national Government," he said.

Mary Ann Sieghart, page 22



Tony Blair speaking at Strathclyde University yesterday

Time to stop the complaints and step up reforms

Members of Parliament are for ever complaining about a democratic deficit in Europe. But now, they have a chance to do something about it. The Government yesterday produced a White Paper, *The Scrutiny of European Union Business*, that helps to answer these complaints by improving the way the Commons deals with the EU.

Many key decisions on trade, health and safety and the single market are taken in a complicated triangle of the Commission, ministers and the Strasbourg Parliament. This limits the scope for MPs to intervene. The challenge for national parliaments has been to have their say before proposals are firmed up.

The Commons already has an elaborate machinery for scrutinising new European proposals — matching the broader work of the Lords committees. Unfortunately, this scrutiny has become a ghetto activity, attracting zealots on both sides but ignored by virtually everyone else. The process also has inherent flaws. These are addressed in the new package, brought forward by Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, which broadly reflects the cross-party view set out in three reports by various committees of the House since mid-1996.

The big gap has been intergovernmental co-operation on foreign and security policy and justice and home affairs under the Maastricht treaty. This had not yet been brought fully within the scrutiny system, but will now.

The key point is the government undertaking to Parliament, known as the scrutiny reserve, not to agree to measures in the Council of Ministers before MPs have had an opportunity fully to consider proposals. This will be strengthened to include areas of intergovernmental co-operation as well as Commission Green Papers. Ministers have also promised to improve the flow of information about EU

business. The number of European Standing Committees is to be increased from two to three and their members are likely to be nominated for a whole Parliament rather than just one session. The committees will have a wider remit to consider EU developments.

These changes are desirable but will make little difference unless the Commons makes use of them. MPs are always in favour of reform in general, but seldom do much about it in practice. It is a question of attitude. For instance, the Treasury committee is doing a good job of holding the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England to account and has held some informative hearings on the world economy. Giles Radice, the chairman, took part in an important initiative to link the European Parliament's Monetary Affairs Committee with representatives of national finance and Treasury committees in meetings twice a year to look at the work of the European Central Bank.

In other areas, the pace of reform is disappointingly slow. A sensible package to improve the way legislation is considered was approved more than a year ago, but only a limited amount has been implemented. Some draft Bills have been produced and there has been limited programming of the way that constitutional Bills are considered. Otherwise, little has changed in the way that Bills are examined and debated, in part because a new Government has been keen to press ahead with its heavy legislative programme.

Mrs Beckett is well aware of this and hopes that more reforms will be implemented in the coming session. The Commons is reforming itself, but the pace will have to be stepped up if Westminster is not to be left behind by the far-reaching constitutional changes under way.

PETER RIDDELL

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

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Michael... scrap... Wilson fra former min

Michael threatens to scrap £10m building

Welsh assembly may sit in Cardiff City Hall instead of grandiose new home, writes Valerie Elliott

ALUN MICHAEL, the new Welsh Secretary, may scrap plans for a £10 million building on the Cardiff seaford to house the Welsh assembly. The project has already been nicknamed "Crystal Balls".

Mr Michael is considering siting the assembly inside the existing Cardiff City Hall, where he himself was once a councillor. The move would be popular in Cardiff, where there was resentment that London architects, the Richard Rogers partnership, had been selected for the job. That decision, by a panel headed by Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, also brought charges of cronyism — Lord Rogers of Riverside is a Labour colleague of the former Prime Minister in the Upper House.

Mr Michael has spoken to Lord Callaghan — his predecessor as MP for Cardiff South and Penarth — to inform him of the review. He is also to contact the rest of the panel.

The news was disclosed yesterday as Mr Michael launched his campaign to become leader of the Labour Party in Wales, and hence Labour's candidate for the post of First Secretary. Last night it was clear that the Welsh Labour Party had failed to halt a contest for the post, and Mr Michael himself was ready to fight a "vigorous" campaign against Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West and his main challenger.

He hoped that any contest

could be conducted amicably — the two men are friends and entered the Commons together in 1987. Mr Michael made clear he would be happy to share a campaign platform with Mr Morgan — something his predecessor as Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, refused to do when he contested the post with him. "I think it is important that party members hear all the views, just as happened during the leadership elections for Tony Blair when he shared a platform with John Prescott and Margaret Beckett," Mr Michael said.

During an interview with *The Times* yesterday Mr Michael's concerns about the building were clear. Plans were laid out on the coffee table, with papers with notes on costings and details of the contract. He had made no decision about the site and was "reviewing every option".

Mr Michael had just left the weekly Cabinet meeting and a private meeting with Mr Blair to discuss the party in Wales. Mr Michael is tackling a variety of tasks — but his priority is to show a steady hand at the Welsh Office. "In recent history there has been too much argument and diversion and I may well be seen as trying to

be a calming influence in Welsh politics," he observed.

But Mr Michael is naturally energetic and even when he speaks of "calm" one could understand why Mr Blair has said that "the most terrifying sight at Westminster is Alun Michael with a clipboard".

He has lost no time in stamping his mark on the Welsh Office — indeed he has been so busy reviewing the work of Mr Davies that he has not had time to unpack his crates from the Home Office, his previous posting. Nor has he had time to sort things out with Mr Blair about his future — how long for example he might stay on as Welsh Secretary if he becomes First Secretary.

Nor, indeed, had he spoken to Mr Davies — and "no", he had not yet discussed with him a future role at the Welsh assembly; the door is clearly open, however, to Mr Davies.

Mr Michael was anxious that the talk of the election for the Welsh Labour leadership had been a distraction from

his concerns at the Welsh Office: the economy, health, education, and local government. He is reviewing plans to reorganise the health service and working with Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, to save farmers from bankruptcy.

He is reviewing plans for the assembly itself, even for its opening. Talk of a "no frills" ceremony were misguided, he said. "I don't know where you got the idea there was not going to be much pomp. We should recognise this will be a momentous occasion."

But he wants the assembly itself to be less formal in its workings than Westminster, and is determined that there should be a voice for youth.

Mr Michael believes he can present himself to the Welsh Labour Party as a man with experience of government and a unity candidate with roots in North Wales who has lived in the South for many years.

He resents the suggestion that he was "parachuted" into Wales by Mr Blair. "This is my home, this is where we have brought up our children. Being Secretary of State for Wales has allowed me to return home."



Alun Michael, the new Welsh Secretary, may scrap plans for the £10m "Crystal Balls" Welsh assembly building

Downey says MPs went soft on Hamilton

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

SIR GORDON DOWNEY, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, yesterday criticised MPs for going "soft" on Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP, over the cash-for-questions affair.

He also made clear he believed the public might expect much tougher punishment against MPs who breach parliamentary rules and even mooted a plan for MPs to commission an opinion poll about their public standing.

But in a parting shot to mark his retirement he said he was disappointed that MPs on the standards and privileges committee "underestimated their capacity to reach a judgment" when there was compelling evidence that Mr Hamilton had accepted cash for lobbying from Mohammed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods.

He also said that when new bribery and corruption laws were introduced any MPs facing charges should be dealt with by the courts

and not by Parliament. He accepted that public censure alone was serious for MPs but suggested the range of punishments should be censure, apology, suspension and expulsion.

He also called for a new seven-year limit on investigations into past allegations, although this could be waived for serious misdemeanours such as bribery or misleading Parliament.

He said he believed the "corrupting influence" of financial links between MPs and lobbyists had been "broken" following the cash-for-questions inquiry.

He said the troubles had been largely down to MPs working for former lobby company Ian Greef Associates on behalf of Mr Al Fayed.

But Sir Gordon also suggested that there may well have been other networks involving lobbyists and MP working on behalf of Loro and other organisations which never came to light.

Wilson 'framed former minister'

By Mark Inglefield, Political Reporter

THE spy writer Chapman Pincher has alleged that Harold Wilson ordered police to frame a former ministerial colleague on a kerb-crawling charge.

In 1976 Lord Wigg, who had been Paymaster General in the Wilson Cabinet in the 1960s, was arrested at Marble Arch, London. Mr Pincher claims that Lord Wigg told him the arrest was made on instructions from the Prime Minister, with whom he had fallen out. Mr Pincher said that no prostitutes were called in the trial, which was dropped.

Lord Wilson, who died two

years ago, may have had good reason to discredit Lord Wigg, who, in government, styled himself "Spymaster General", collecting salacious material on MPs and recording it in diaries, now held at the London School of Economics.

"He could find out about any minister and was able to indulge his prurient curiosity by probing the sexual peccadilloes of politicians," Mr Pincher writes in the *Spectator*. He also claims Lord Wigg had wanted to publish the story in his memoirs, but this was forbidden at the time by his lawyers.

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DNA test may solve mystery of missing boy

Hair could identify Ben Needham, writes Stewart Tendler

DNA tests were being set up yesterday to establish whether a child seen in Greece is Ben Needham, who vanished there seven years ago.

A hair from the child's head was brought back this summer by a British tourist. John Cookson gave it to the Needham family, but scientists have only now been able to make use of it because of developments in DNA testing in recent months.

Yesterday South Yorkshire Police delivered a hair taken from Christine Needham, Ben's grandmother, to forensic scientists at a laboratory in Wetherby, Yorkshire. Police say that the tests may take some time; they may not confirm whether the boy is Ben, but should make it easier to say if it is not.

Ben was 21 months old when he vanished in July 1991 while playing outside the farmhouse his grandparents were renovating on the island of Kos.

Mr Cookson saw the blond-haired boy playing on a beach at Rhodes, an island about 50 miles from Kos. He took video film of the boy and managed to obtain a single hair. Yesterday he said he was struck by the fact that the child was fair

while his parents and brother were dark-haired. He said the boy was known as "The Blond One" and seemed to act differently.

He said he thought the child lived in a nearby taverna and his brother was 17. Mr Cookson added that he had seen the boy on other visits to the island before deciding to gather evidence.

Yesterday Ben's mother, Kerry, said she had seen the film and understood why Mr



A video still of the blond boy who may be Ben

Cookson was struck by the child's appearance. There were similarities, but the boy's mouth was different and his teeth were poor.

Ben's grandfather, Eddie Needham, said the family were trying to remain calm. He said: "There have been other sightings over the years, but it's no longer just a blond-haired boy on a beach. This time we've got something physical which will prove one way or another whether it's Ben." He added: "Looking at the video of this boy, there is certainly a family resemblance, especially about the way his hair grows."

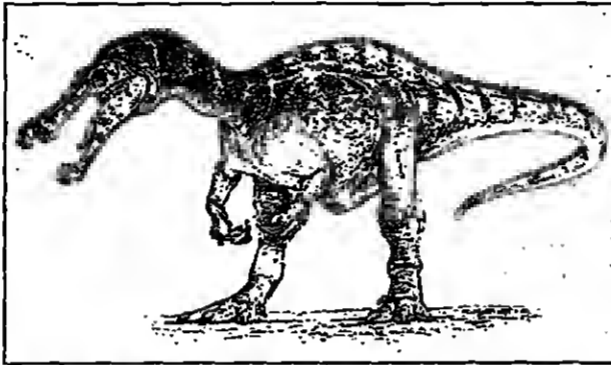
Ms Needham, 26, of Foxhill, Sheffield, said: "The next heartache we face is what to do if it is Ben. He was only a baby when he disappeared, now he will be nine years old. Whoever has got him will have had him a lot longer than I had him. He won't recognise me or know anything about us."

"That is a harrowing decision that we may have to face: whether to leave him with his new family if he is happy and well cared for, or whether to bring him back with us."

"But I need to know if he is still alive and I will never rest until he is found."



The University of Chicago team working on the site in the Sahara. In the foreground is a foot-long thumb claw from the skeleton



What Suchomimus tenerensis might have looked like

Desert skeleton forces rethink on crocodiles

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A NEW crocodile-like dinosaur has been found in the deserts of Niger. Nearly 36ft long, the creature had long, narrow jaws filled with cone-shaped teeth, a fin-like tail along its back, and large curved claws.

It belonged to a class of fish-eating dinosaurs called spinosaurids, and lived 100 million years ago. The new species, described in *Science* by a team led by Paul Sereno, of the University of Chicago, has been called *Suchomimus tenerensis* (from the Greek for crocodile, *souchos*, and the Tenger desert).

Suchomimus is a close rela-

tion of *Baryonyx walkeri*, one of the most complete dinosaur fossils found in Britain, and now in the Natural History Museum. Its close similarity poses a puzzle for the evolution of the spinosaurids.

Before *Suchomimus* was found, the spinosaurids had probably evolved independently in the northern and southern hemispheres, because the two found in the south were so different from *Baryonyx*, found in a Surrey claypit.

This simple picture will now have to be rethought. The odds are, says Dr Sereno, that spinosaurids first appeared in

the north and then colonised the south across a land bridge that still linked the two halves of the super-continent Pangaea as it began to break up.

Suchomimus probably fed on meat as well as fish. The shape of its teeth imply they were better at piercing and grasping than slicing. Other flesh-eating dinosaurs have serrated, blade-like teeth.

Spinosaurs have an unusual history, having been, as Thomas Holtz, of the University of Maryland, puts it, "twice lost" — first when they became extinct, and later, when the only known specimen was lost in an air raid on Munich.

Rare orchids in danger as gardeners are locked out

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

A RARE collection of tiny tropical orchids is at risk of dying from neglect as gardeners at Ireland's botanic gardens have been locked out of work.

The 16 gardeners were suspended without pay four weeks ago, leaving a small group of managers and assistants to care for 20,000 plant species, including what is believed to be Europe's only collection of four delicate orchids discovered in the jungle in Belize.

Brendan Sayers, the orchid gardener, said: "I am the per-

son who found them, cared for them, potted them and I know they are in danger. Nobody else knows how much water to give or when to dry them out. They are probably dead and it is very, very distressing."

Mr Sayers uncovered four orchids previously unknown to Belize — *Platytele mini-flora*, a 2cm translucent orchid with an orange lip; *Platytele stenostachya var lanksteri*, a 3cm translucent plant with a maroon lip; *Pleurothallis peperomioides*, a 2cm orchid with red flowers opening like a bird's beak, and *Campylocentrum peopigii*, a unusual

root orchid that produces white flowers.

The dispute is over extra money for training student gardeners. The workers were suspended before they planted the garden's 250,000 beds for winter or the daffodils and tulips for next year's spring beds.

Donal Synnott, director of the gardens, insisted that the orchids and other plants were "in good hands and in perfect health". He said: "It's winter time so there is not a lot to do and the curator is perfectly well able to look after the orchids."

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THE TIMES NEWS

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كذا من الأصل

British bridges to restore links in Honduras

A Reading company is stepping up production to meet demand in the hurricane zone, David Adams writes

IN THE huge reconstruction effort under way in Honduras, it may be a pioneering British bridge-building company that provides a key component to help get the country back to work.

A team from Mabe & Johnson, the Reading-based manufacturer of Bailey bridges, has met Honduran officials and representatives from the World Bank and the British Embassy, in the hope of reaching a deal to supply its "rapid reaction bridge system".

Specifications, in that they could be erected quickly, in the dark, by hand and under gunfire. Made from galvanised steel, they consist of panels measuring 10ft by 7½ft that slot easily together. They have the added advantage of being easily assembled by military construction brigades that are familiar with the design. Honduras is no stranger itself to Bailey bridges, which were used in 1974 after Hurricane Fifi, the country's last big storm.

Hundreds of miles of roads and 72 bridges were washed away by torrents of mud and water in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, leaving large parts of the country, including the capital, isolated. Road communications have been partially restored where receding waters have allowed rivers to be forded by heavy vehicles and four-wheel drive cars.

The Honduran Government estimates that it needs more than three miles of temporary bridge-building materials in order to restore road communications between its main towns. It has no time to even consider long-term bridge projects.

Some 1,200 people along the remote Mosquito Coast of Honduras were still cut off by floods. Anibal Delgado, of the National Agrarian Institute, said. Among the people awaiting rescue, several hundred were perched on tree-tops to save themselves from the floods, he said, adding that rain and fog had stopped helicopters from reaching the area. (AFP)



A guard watches over a bus swept away by floods on the Choluteca river in Honduras

WORLD IN BRIEF

Monks let women see Goya frescoes

Madrid: For the first time in more than two centuries women have been allowed to view a series of seven frescoes painted by Goya in the closed Carthusian monastery of Aula Dei in Zaragoza, eastern Spain (Giles Trueman writes). There were feminist demonstrations outside the monastery last year after the monks refused to lift the rule forbidding women from entering their spiritual sanctuary. A tunnel has now been constructed so that women can enter the frescoes room without walking through the monastery. Queen Sofia led a group of 500 women to see the works restored with public money.

Nuclear plant fears

Paris: Greenpeace, the environmental watchdog, claimed that the French nuclear reprocessing plant at La Hague was emitting "worrisome" levels of radioactive carbon. The group said an analysis of grass and leaves surrounding the plant showed concentrations of carbon-14 that are two to seven times greater than normal levels, adding: "It is clear that the entire area surrounding La Hague, especially the part downwind from the plant, is seriously contaminated." (AP)

OJ in TV custody plea

Los Angeles: Facing a custody battle for his children, O.J. Simpson telephoned a television news station and pleaded his case for an hour on the airwaves (Giles Whinnell writes). He insisted in the impromptu interview that he was a good father who did not kill his wife and deserved to be left alone with his children. When asked why his blood was found by the murdered bodies of their mother and a friend he hung up.

Cod and ships

Oslo: The Norwegian Navy's submarine corps has run into an unexpected problem - lovesick fish. Teeming schools of passionate cod, in the midst of a frenzied mating season, make so much noise that the submarines' sonar cannot hear anything else, making it almost impossible to navigate in the waters of the Norwegian Sea, according to a defence study. The cod grunt repeatedly to attract potential mates. (AP)

Prescott's global warning

Buenos Aires: The death and destruction of Hurricane Mitch, the forest fires in Indonesia and the floods in China are warnings "the world ignores at its peril", John Prescott said yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes). As global climate talks in Argentina move into the final phase, the Deputy Prime Minister told ministers and officials from 169 countries that "sympathy alone will not prevent such tragedies in the future".

Briton is kidnapped in Nigeria

A BRITON was among seven people kidnapped by militant Nigerian youths from an oil rig in the delta region, as a shutdown in the flow of oil from foreign-owned units entered its 38th day (Michael Binyon writes). The seven foreign nationals also included a Croatian, an Italian, a South African and three Americans. They were kidnapped on Wednesday, together with a Nigerian, while working for Texaco and other Western oil companies operating on a Texaco-owned offshore rig in Bayelsa state.

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More than 80 hurt in Jakarta student riots

BY PATRICIA NOONAN IN JAKARTA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

VIOLENCE broke out in the Indonesian capital for a second day yesterday as the military fired teargas, water cannon and blanks in an effort to prevent thousands of student demonstrators from marching on parliament.

Some reports said that as many as 83 people had been injured, 15 of them critically.

Soldiers dressed in riot gear also fired rubber bullets and used bamboo canes to beat students protesting against the holding of a special session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). Troops fired over the heads of students leading similar demonstrations on Wednesday. They beat three Indonesian journalists and a student protester.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators braved torrential rain

late into the evening in a tense stand-off with hundreds of soldiers at two locations in Jakarta. The students — dressed in yellow and blue university jackets — locked arms, sang songs and chanted slogans less than a yard from the military line-up.

The MPR, Indonesia's highest legislative body, is meeting to pass legislation on political structures ahead of parliamentary and presidential elections next year.

It is the first time that the 1,000-member body has met since it re-elected former President Suharto to his seventh consecutive five-year term last May. Mr Suharto was forced to resign two months later when anti-government protests degenerated into riots that left more than 1,200 people dead.

But student protesters and opposition leaders say that because the Assembly is made

up of delegates left over from the Suharto regime, it is not a valid forum to discuss political reform.

They also want President Habibie, who was the Vice-President under Mr Suharto, to step down.

"Habibie is the product of the Suharto regime. We know that Habibie is no good. The students are the voice of the people," said one protester. Amien Rais, the opposition party leader — who led dozens of rallies that helped bring down Mr Suharto — said he wanted to wait until the end of the MPR session today before deciding if he will encourage his supporters to join the demonstrations to put "pressure" on the Government.

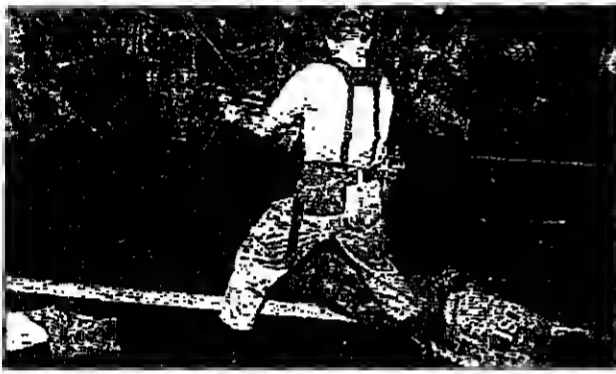
"Whether by sending people in the streets or meeting face to face with the leaders of the MPR, or by doing something else, I do not know yet," Mr Rais said.

General Wiranto, the head of the Indonesian Armed Forces, promised that soldiers involved in Wednesday's beatings of journalists and demonstrators would be punished.

The MPR agenda yesterday included limiting the President to two terms and investigating the personal wealth of Mr Suharto and his family.

Students also want the military kicked out of parliament, where it holds 75 seats.

The Assembly has decided to work towards phasing out the military from parliament over five years, a ruling party faction leader said.



Protesters flee as a riot policeman fires his gun while guarding an injured comrade in Jakarta yesterday

Settler plan by Israel 'flouts accord'

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

LESS than 24 hours after the Cabinet ratified the new peace deal with the Palestinians, Israel yesterday published delayed tenders for building more than 1,000 homes for Jews at the disputed settlement site of Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem.

The move prompted a furious reaction from Palestinians who said it violated the peace accords and demanded that the US, which brokered last month's hard-won Wye deal, should once again intervene.

Hassan Asfour, a leading Palestinian negotiator, said it showed that Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was more interested in placating Jewish settlers and hardliners opposed to trading land for peace than pursuing his new obligations under the Wye accord.

"If the Israeli side continues in this way, it means that they want to lead the relationship with the Palestinians to confrontation," he added.

It was Mr Netanyahu's decision to send bulldozers to begin building the infrastructure at Har Homa that triggered the 19-month halt in peace negotiations ended by the agreement at Wye.

Last night there were signs that even some on the Israeli Right opposed the move. Zvi Hendel, one of a number of Knesset members from the National Religious Party, claimed it was "a bid to appease the Right that would not succeed".

Mr Hendel is one of a number of the Prime Minister's former backers who have vowed to overthrow him because of the Wye agreement.

Ehud Barak, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, said publishing the tender at such a delicate moment was "nothing more than political compensation for those on the Right who oppose the Wye deal".

Mr Netanyahu has consistently argued that, as Har Homa is part of Jerusalem, claimed as Israel's "eternal and indivisible" capital, it is not a new Jewish settlement, but merely a new building scheme needed to house a population overflow.

Criticism of the Har Homa scheme by Robin Cook, Britain's Foreign Secretary, led to his first official visit to the country ending in a diplomatic failure.



Cheung Tze-keung, the Hong Kong gangster sentenced to death in south China

Beijing sentences gangsters from Hong Kong to death

FROM JILL MCGIVERING IN HONG KONG

A HONG KONG gang leader and four associates have been sentenced to death by a court in Canton, south China.

Cheung Tze-keung, known as Big Spender because of his fast cars and gambling, was convicted of armed robbery, smuggling explosives and kidnappings, including the abduction of the son of Li Ka-shing, a Hong Kong property billionaire. Almost 30 other gang members, also found guilty, were jailed.

The verdict has raised concern in Hong Kong about the independence of its legal system now that the territory is

part of China. Although they were caught on the mainland, many of the suspects were Hong Kong residents and most of their crimes were committed in the former colony.

Despite pleas from relatives, the Hong Kong Government refused to ask the mainland for the return of the men for trial in the territory, where the legal system is more transparent and where they would not face the death penalty.

Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's Chief Executive, defended the decision, saying the suspects had also violated Chinese laws and that the ter-

ritory must respect China's legal procedures.

But Ivan Tang, a defence lawyer, called the death of the one-country, two-systems formula — the guarantee of autonomy given when Hong Kong was returned to China last year. He attacked the Hong Kong Government for failing to monitor the trial closely and said he would call on the British Government for help in his battle to bring the trial to Hong Kong.

Pressure is growing for the territory to have a formal arrangement with Beijing for the return of suspects.

Brittan in plea to stop stalling on euro

FROM CHARLES BRENNES IN BRUSSELS

THE British Government should stop wavering over entry to the European single currency and immediately start preparing the country for the euro, Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the EU Commission, will say today.

Britain had wasted a valuable opportunity to shape the future of monetary union and Tony Blair's Government, although favourable towards the euro, could not stand aside and "expect others to do its spade work for it", according to the former Tory Cabinet minister and strong supporter of British euro membership.

Ministers had given conflicting signals over the past week, on when or if Britain joined the currency. "This is senseless political zig-zagging which neither clarifies the Government's own position nor helps to encourage a bolder or more forward-looking approach," Sir Leon will tell an audience in Leeds. "The time for leadership is now. Further delay will neither make the Government's own job any easier, nor would it serve the best interests of the country."

Sir Leon, who is to retire from the Commission at the end of next year, has been waging an increasingly outspoken campaign to alert the British political world to what he sees as the folly of Britain staying outside a project that will bring substantial economic gain to Europe.

Santer successor: Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's powerful new Finance Minister, was at the centre of a flurry of reports yesterday of a Franco-German manoeuvre to put a German at the head of the European Commission and a Frenchman in a powerful new post as the EU's "foreign minister".

The office of Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, denied German media reports that Bonn was lobbying for Herr Lafontaine, who is also president of the Social Democrat Party, to succeed Jacques Santer as head of the Commission when his term ends in December next year.

Herr Lafontaine himself joked: "Rumours are always rumours. In fact, I'm interested in the Pope's job." Diplomats suggested the German flurry, started by a report in Die Zeit, was an attempt by Herr Schröder's camp to undermine his leading rival.

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Poppy tribute in Spain for 'man who never was'

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

FOR the first time since his death, poppies were yesterday lying at the foot of a gravestone bearing the real name of one of the Second World War's most mysterious heroes, popularly known as "The Man Who Never Was".

The poppies were lying in the Cemetery of Solitude in Huelva, southwest Spain, by the stone that now bears the name of Glendwyer Michael, a Welsh stand-up and whose body was used in one of the war's most brilliant espionage operations. His name was added

to the stone earlier this year after declassified war documents divulged the identity of a man German agents believed to be a drowned Royal Marines intelligence officer named Major William Martin.

False papers placed on his body fooled Hitler into thinking that the Allies would not invade Sicily in July 1943.

For 40 years the gravestone in Huelva has borne William Martin's name. Now the inscription reads: "Glendwyer Michael, served as Major William Martin RM."

Isabel Naylor, an English woman in

Huelva whose family has tended the grave for the past 40 years, laid paper poppies and red carnations in memory of the man whose body was dumped off the Spanish coast by a Royal Navy submarine in April 1943.

Glendwyer Michael was chosen for his mission after he ate rat poison and died, aged 34, of a liver complaint in a London hospital. The cause of death was considered sufficiently similar to drowning to fool German spies operating in southern Spain.

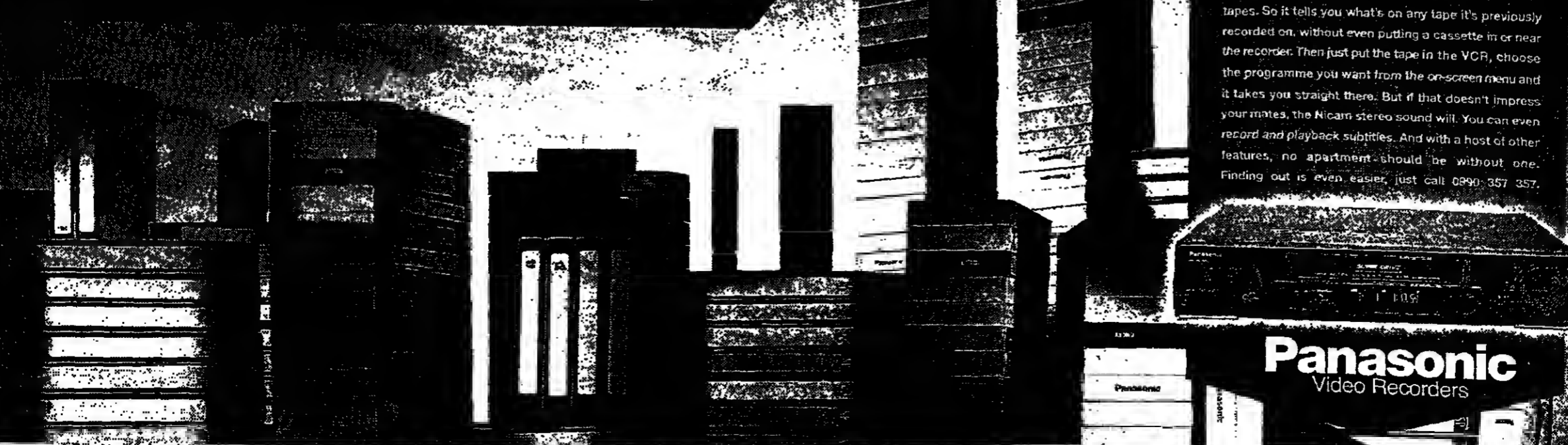
His body was dressed in the uniform of a Royal Marines major and a briefcase full of false documents was

chained to his wrist. Personal photographs and letters were also added.

The documents quickly found their way into the hands of German agents who believed "Major Martin" had drowned after his aircraft crashed off Spain while returning from North Africa. The documents eventually convinced Hitler to move troops from eastern Sicily to Sardinia.

Churchill was so proud of the operation, codenamed "Mincomeat", that he personally broke an embargo on secure information so the story could be made public. It was turned into the film *The Man Who Never Was* in 1955.

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UN spies losing battle with Baghdad



Weapons inspectors uncovered much of Saddam's arsenal but now have little power, writes James Bone in New York

THE United Nations Special Commission was once a swashbuckling band of former soldiers, spies and scientists whose cloak-and-dagger tactics unearthed the most fearsome secrets of Iraq's arsenal of mass destruction. Those heady days, however, are long gone.

For months, and some would say years, this unprecedented UN spy agency has been eaten away by a what may be a terminal disease. With all its staff now evacuated

from Baghdad, a bombing raid on Iraq could spell its imminent demise. The only consolation for supporters such as Britain and the United States is that nobody imagined the agency would last so long.

Established by the UN's ceasefire resolution at the end of the Gulf War in 1991, Unscorm was meant to complete its main business in about three months. The resolution required Iraq to declare all its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons,

and the missiles to deliver them, in just 15 days. Baghdad was meant to surrender them within 90 days.

side in the Iraqi desert, pointing at Tel Aviv. They destroyed about 40,000 chemical weapons at an incinerator at Iraq's main chemical weapons installation, Muthanna. They have dismantled Iraq's nuclear weapons programme, and accounted for 817 of Iraq's 819 Scud missiles.

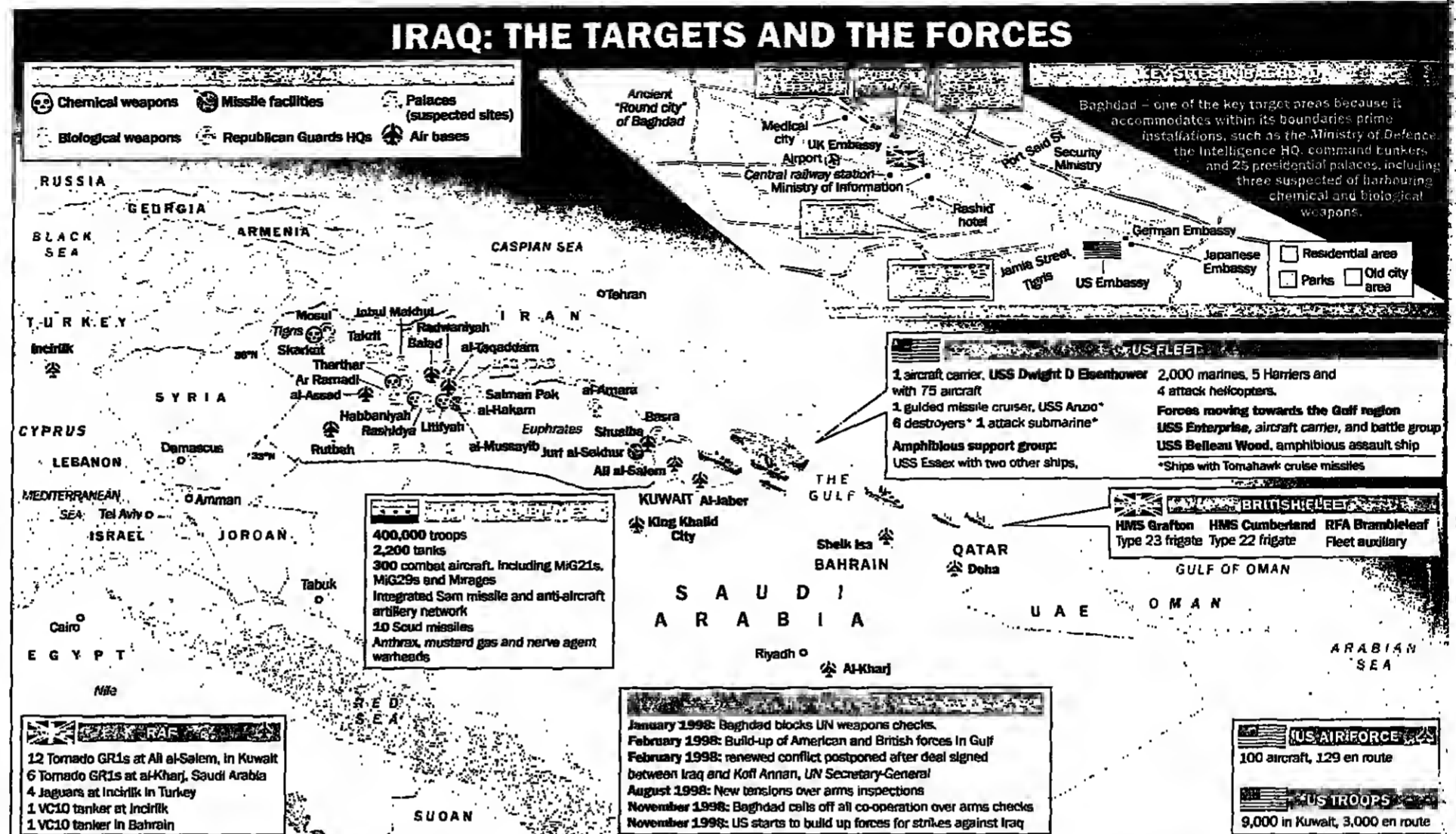
US abandons strategy of surgical strikes

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

TARGETS

THE Pentagon has drawn up a list of 250 targets in Iraq for military strikes, including facilities considered to be crucial to President Saddam Hussein's survival as leader.

bombs and missiles cause civilian deaths, the purpose of the airstrikes will be undermined and Saddam will gain sympathy from the Arab world.



logical and chemical weapons. His chemical and biological weapons programme — developing and storing anthrax, VX nerve gas, mustard gas, botulinum toxin, sarin nerve agent, "Agent 15" nerve gas and cyanide — is still active. British intelligence assessments are that Saddam has "weaponised" some of these chemical and biological warfare agents and has concealed them in small quantities at secret sites around Iraq.

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Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring a portrait and text including 'Aziz fires first soundbite on satellite'.

هكذا من الأصل

Tourists head home as Israelis fear gas attack



British holidaymakers cut short their vacation in the Red Sea resort of Eilat yesterday

HUNDREDS of British holidaymakers were yesterday in the vanguard of what could become a mass tourist evacuation from Israel after the Foreign Office issued a warning against non-essential travel in case of Iraqi retaliation for attacks on Baghdad.

Travel firms respond to Foreign Office fears of Iraqi retaliation, reports Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

At the same time, the Israeli Army's Home Front Command opened 66 centres to distribute new and replacement gas masks and anti-chemical warfare kits to Israeli citizens. These will be open round-the-clock as long as the stand-off with Iraq continues.

Palestinian leader who supported Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War, told *The Jerusalem Post*: "I hope and urge that there will not be an attack against Iraq. Peace in the Middle East will be negatively affected."

Aziz fires first in soundbite war on satellite TV

BY BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

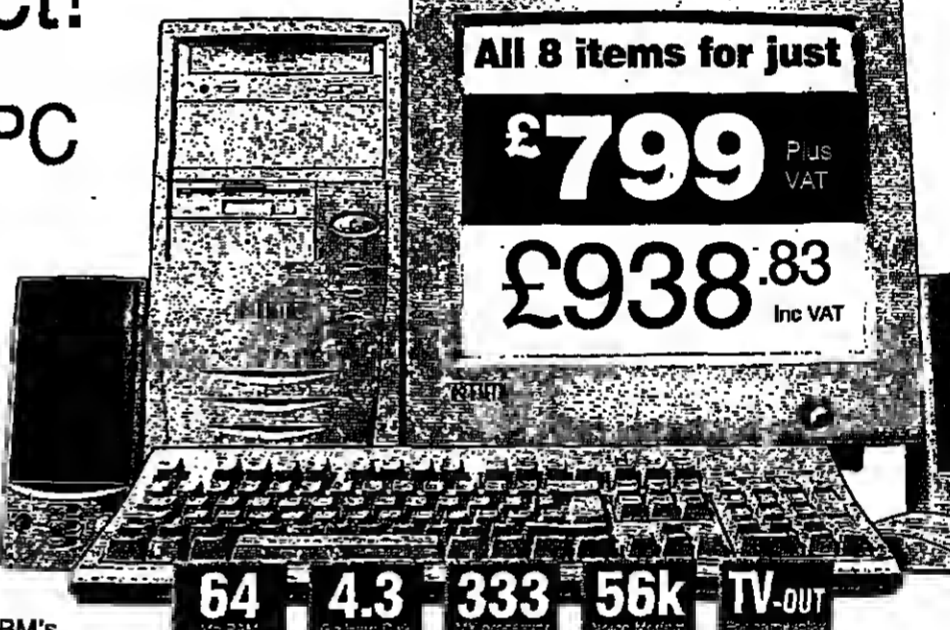
IRAQ yesterday defiantly lambasted the United States for its military build-up, provoking an immediate hard-line retort from Washington that there was no room for negotiation, and that an attack would inflict "significant" damage.

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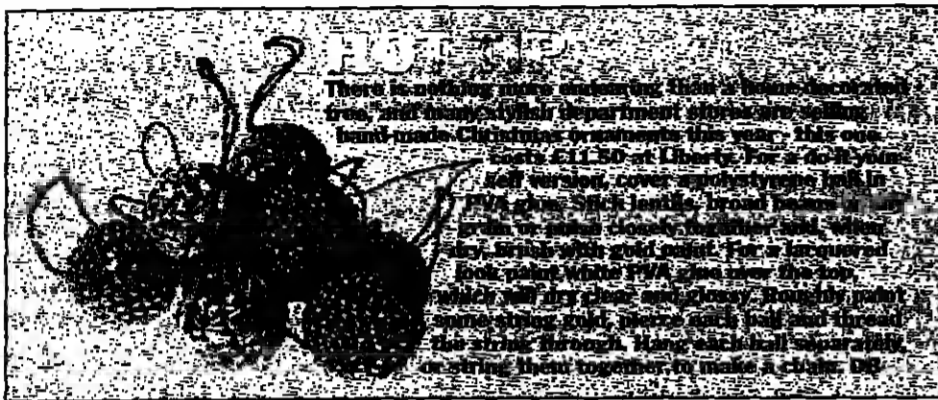


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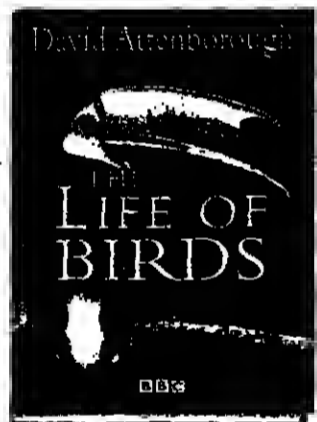
"This year my forward planning will be formidable enough to make Martha Stewart stretch her eyes in admiration"

THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

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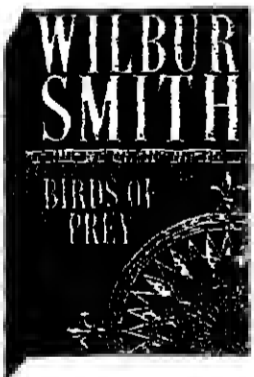
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Christmas comes but once a year and, when it comes, it invariably finds me in a state of hopeless disorder. I don't know how it happens — one minute the interminable Sundays in Trinity are trundling past and the next it is the middle of December, there are ten shopping days until Christmas and I am in a state of simmering panic in which I remain until January 6.

This time, I have sworn to myself that things will be different. Instead of complaining about the wave of commercial ho-ho-cry that begins creeping across the country as soon as the clocks go back — already there are Christmas trees lashed to the façades in Regent Street and outbreaks of seasonal lingerie in the chain stores — I am going to join it. This year, when the moment comes to open the first window of the Advent calendar (which I shall, naturally, have hand-painted myself and mounted in an artistic frame of gold-sprayed fir cones and assorted dried fruit), my forward planning will be formidable enough to make Martha Stewart herself stretch her eyes in admiration.

I shall begin with the Christmas decorations. We are great ones in our family for those special little Christmas traditions. A high point of the celebrations when we were small was the thrilling moment when, standing well back, my sister and I would wait for the cheerful pop and sizzle of ancient wiring as father threw the Bakelite switch on the fairy-lights. And then there were the ornaments. Distressed, I suppose you would call them now — battered angels with tarnished wings, glass birds with needle-sharp spun-glass tails, fragments of which would embed themselves in our little fingers...

Naturally, when my son was born, I did my best to reproduce these unforgettable, childish Christmases. We have an imposing collection of rickety wooden Santas of Eastern European origin, a set of lights whose replacement bulbs I have put in a place so

safe that I cannot recall it, a flock of robins in various stages of mange, and a fairy whose ribald state of dishevelment suggests that she has been at the sloe gin. I am fond of my Hogarthian collection of festive accessories. They have a seedy and mildly villainous presence which acts as a bracing antidote to the general Christmas *Schwärmerei*. Still, I can see that there is some potential for updating, so we set off for the Fulham Road to see what the well-dressed Christmas tree is wearing this year.

At the Conran Shop my son took a fancy to a glass locomotive and carriages, £6. I had been thinking more of Snow Queen ices than the 6.25 to Beckenham, but was deflected from my plans by some papier-mâché animals — little blue

Byzantium range is more dull glow than brash sparkle. Beaded fruit (£7.50 for a set of apple, pear and pomegranate) and gold or silver beaded tassels, £3.95, are especially handsome.

For quirky, shoe-straining elegance, Bhs is unexpectedly brilliant, with 9ft garlands of little gold musical instruments or iridescent icicles, £2, gold twig "cages" with a gold ball inside, £2.50, and plump crystal cherubs playing musical instruments, £2. You get a very nice class of cherub at the National Gallery, where a stencil of a Guido Reni *pazzo* or a Simon Marmion angel is £10, and an Advent calendar by Posy Simmonds with a cloud of naked *pazzi* flitting about the gallery is £5.

But if the very thought of Christmas makes you want to go and lie down in a darkened room, the answer is probably a visit to Selfridge's Christmas Hall, where, if you want, they will do the whole tree for you. It was strangely quiet when I was there last week. A huge room is filled with about a dozen trees, decorated in every imaginable style, from cheerfully childish, with Santa baubles, £1.49, a glitter star, £4.99, and a stripy tin cat, £2.49, through artless rustic, with feather robins, 79p, holly-berry baubles, £2.49, and spotty glass toadstools, £2.49, to frightfully tasteful, with garlands of gold pears, £8.99, and Grinling Gibbons gift bows, £2.49, and completely over the top — a battery-powered mirror disco ball is £59.99.

If you are really idle you can buy a ready-decorated tree from about £700, but I spent a happy half hour pottering among the Tiffany-style malachite baubles, the bunches of pink crystal grapes and the real feather pheasants. At the end of it all an engagingly laid-back sales assistant somehow charmed me into wrapping up my own sleigh bells while he got on with reminiscing about his childhood Christmases in Australia. It was the jolliest bit of Christmas shopping I think I've ever done.

CUTTING EDGE
JANE SHILLING

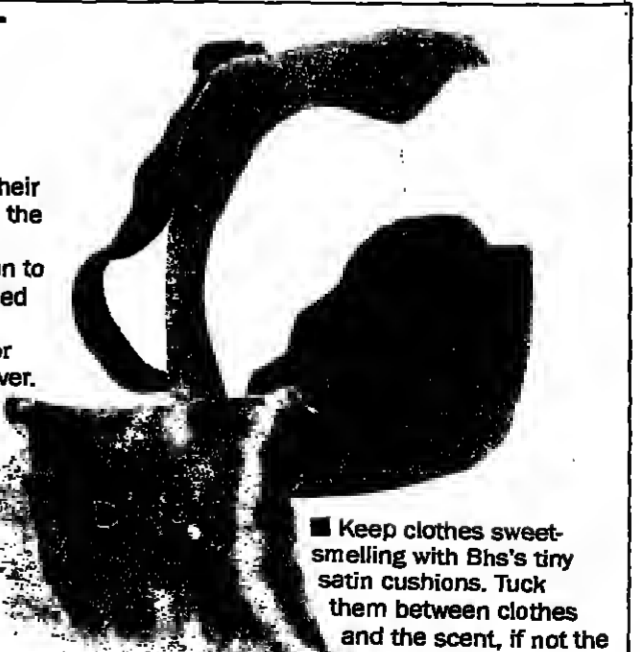
elephants or red birds with gold spots at £1.95 each. Glitter-wire birds are £2.75, glass fruit, £1.25, and cheerful Mexican tin vegetables, £1.75. Alexander and I were very taken with crackers made out of maps — the London A-Z, the Paris Périphérique, and so on — with compasses stuck to them, £22.95.

Farther up the Fulham Road, Jerry's Home Store has drums of glass baubles decorated with the Union Flag, £14.95. Traditional silver metal candle clips are £5.95 for 20, candles are £3.95 for 20 and packets of "snow" are £2.50.

Glitter-haters should head for the Shaker Shop, where, among a slightly twee collection, are some real finds, particularly the hand-carved white doves, £9.95, and angels, £19.95, the silver birch-bark decorations in heart, tree and star shapes, £14.95 for five, and a set of four miniature knitted Christmas stockings, £25.95. The General Trading Company's Christmas in

Objects of desire

For children who wish their homework would fly away, the National Gallery's winged rucksack will add some fun to the journey to school. Based on the Wilton Diptych (1395-99), it is suitable for children aged three and over. £20 at The National Gallery Shop (0171-747 2870).



Keep clothes sweet-smelling with Bhs's tiny satin cushions. Tuck them between clothes and the scent, if not the embroidered gold words of Joy, Wish, Calm and Dream, will permeate your wardrobe. £7 for set of four (0171-262 3288), DB

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MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

Vile bodies at my local swimming pool

Still keeping up with the daily swim? Yes, *thru* daily swim, the one you promised to take when you realised, as you were floating in the Mediterranean three months ago, (a) what a pleasant way swimming is to exercise; and (b) how, now that your waist extends far enough to shield your shoes from all but the most horizontal rainfall, it might be smart to get trim before you become technically fat (defined as "two stones heavier than whatever you weigh now").

This is why so many of us return from our holiday and immediately join a local gym with a pool. A few of us are so besotted by our new hobby that we even get around to swimming in the pool before our £900 annual membership expires. But the reason that most of us don't is that it dawns on us that spending several hours doing

breaststroke is not a natural pursuit for human beings.

Swinburne took to the ocean because "the lash and sting" of the sea's surf triggered erotic memories of the floggings he enjoyed at Eton. But other schoolboys have always needed persuading of the charms of swimming. That's why your swimming teacher always had to bribe you by giving you stripes and badges for your mother to sew on to your trunks. You could serve ten acres in a row on the tennis court and they still never gave you a green ribbon to sew on to your shorts. But swim six yards across a pool and the teacher would be straight on the phone organising a congratulatory telegram from Buckingham Palace.

By the time your trunks had more coloured stripes than a Bridget Riley painting, you could swim as far as you liked, for as long as you cared to. Only there's nowhere to go. You get all the way to one end of the pool and you feel a little foolish, so you just turn around and come back again. You never know when you're finished. It's only when you're eyeing your fellow swimmers on your way back to the changing rooms that you realise what swimming could do for your physique.

You suddenly notice that most people at public pools look so misshapen that aliens would assume that swimming baths were scientific research facilities where biologists experimented with human body forms, many of them based directly on Vanessa Feltz. (Pamela Anderson looked like that in *Baywatch* only because she never actually stepped into the water.) When they tell you that swimming gives you the body of an 18-year-old, what they don't say is that very often it's the body of an 18-year-old Ford Transit.

You also notice that they are all wearing swimming costumes that last fitted them properly in 1982, possibly because in their religion men and women are allowed to buy only one swimming costume once they reach adulthood. These costumes are covered in patterns so scarily lurid that eye-surgeons could use them to perform laser-surgery. ("Stare at these trunks, but for no more than one-quarter of a second. Do you feel a burning sensation on your retina? Good, that should sort out the short-sightedness in your left eye.")

These are people who have tried and failed with known methods of shedding weight and are now dabbling on the fringes of known science: they've tried explaining to their thighs that humans no longer need to store 42lb of fat about their

bodies for emergencies, because the corner store is open all the time and all the local restaurants deliver. But their thighs didn't listen. So now they are shamelessly trying to squeeze their fat cells away; they think that by showing them swimwear that looks as if it's been exposed to fierce radioactivity, their fat cells might decamp to somewhere more hospitable, such as one of Marlon Brando's chins.

And even if swimming *does* tighten your belly muscles, it does even spookier things to your brain. Byron liked to swim every day in a stagnant duckpond near Newstead Abbey. But pretty soon he was on to the hard stuff. After leaving a party in Venice, he dived, fully clothed, into the Grand Canal and swam home, holding a torch to warn off passing gondoliers. And on swimming the Hellespont on May 3, 1810, Byron wrote: "I plume myself on this achievement more than I could possibly do any kind of glory, political, poetical, or rhetorical."

This didn't make much sense to anyone, of course, until Freud came along and told us that swimming basically disguises a human yearning to revisit the amniotic waters of the womb. That might not have put Byron off swimming, but it would have made him think twice about messing with Venusian women, just in case they really do have wombs full of seaweed, with shingle underfoot.

It probably also explains why, when most people hear the call of the sea, the sea says: "Stay on dry land — especially if you're Marlon Brando — because visibility can be poor and you never know when there'll be a Japanese whaler in the area."

There's no such thing as class

Society jeweller Julia Ogilvy married into the Royal Family. Interview by Moira Petty

Julia Ogilvy sashays through the glittering Edinburgh emporium. She may answer to the lowly title, Mrs, but she is queen of all she surveys within the roocon interior of Hamilton & Inches, Scotland's grandest jeweller. (A 3.10 carat diamond set in platinum ring, £42,900. Pearl and diamond collar, £18,841.)

Mrs Ogilvy is noted for two achievements. First, in July 1988 she married James, son of the Queen's cousin, Princess Alexandra; but mention this and she bristles. Second, already installed as managing director of Hamilton & Inches, she has recently led a management buy-out of former owners Asprey. Mention this and she glows.

Although everything around here has a price tag (tenamel cufflinks, £120. Edwardian gold, amethyst and pearl pendant, £2,150), she discreetly refuses to say how much money changed hands. The management team of four put in some equity and there was finance from The Bank of Scotland. "It was terrifying. But we agreed with Asprey we wouldn't give you any figures," she says primly.

Mrs Ogilvy, 33, is a vision in her grey Tomasz Starzewski suit and LK Bennett slingbags, a perfect foil for the jewels with which she drips. They cascade from ears, wrist and neck. Her three-string pearl necklace was a 21st birthday present: "Pearls had that funny Sloane Ranger association but now they're seen as chic."

Today she is also twinkling in pearl and diamond earrings and her sapphire and diamond cluster engagement ring ("Diamonds are so simple!"). Celtic-looking brooch and ring and several other rings besides, and a charm bracelet to which her husband adds a gold nugget on each

wedding anniversary. Plus she is wearing a Rolex; at home are the Patek Philippe and Tag Heuer models. "I'm a bit of a watch person," she confesses.

Mrs Ogilvy is used to piling on the jewellery. "I buy quite a lot and I borrow things. I get very excited by new designers. If I'm wearing a haligown I'll borrow one of our £26,000 pearl and diamond chokers. We have lots of parties in the shop and people often want to try on what I am wearing. I end up with no jewellery by the end of the evening."

She had a "wonderful childhood" with her two sisters in Saffron Walden, Essex. "There was no family moneey. My father worked hard in the City and made money. I was on the front of *Todler* once as the ultimate Essex girl."

Had she had to overcome any class differences when she married James? He is, after all, within a few dozen places of the throne. "Class? CLASS?" she says, with an incredulous peat of laughter. "Life isn't about class any more. It's not about who you are, but what you put into it."

"I'm not saying anything about Essex but there's more than one type of Essex, you know. My parents live in a beautiful thatched house in a lovely village."

She is very keen on the concept of luxury. In fact she came up with a great idea for her husband James, who runs his own publishing business from their Fife farmhouse. To his bi-monthly *Ole*, *Ogilvy's Britain and Ireland: The Insider Guide for the Sophisticated Traveller* (typical features: Fabulous Golf and The British Tea), he has added *Luxury Briefing: Your Indispensable Guide to the Luxury Industry*. A top tip from a recent issue: "Pierre Cardin may be a licence-



Julia Ogilvy: "I buy all my underwear from M&S but my mother hates it when I say that. I bought a linen suit there this summer and everyone thought it was Ralph Lauren"

'Life isn't about class any more. It's what you put into it'

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ing success but it's no longer an achiever's choice."

"My husband's happy to give me the credit for coming up with the idea for *Luxury Briefing*," she says. "It's hard to get to all the PR parties, hear all the gossip, so we decided to start this for all the people who work in that business. It is, after all, the same customer who stays at five-star hotels, flies Concorde and buys expensive jewellery."

Mrs Ogilvy sighs and says: "It's so easy to get out of the luxury-goods world. We've still got lots of friends who work at places like Louis Vuitton so we like to come down to London and get to some of the parties. The Carrier polo is always a wonderful event."

Where, in the classiest world she claims to inhabit, does she stay when in London? "With my parents-in-law. At St James's Palace. I feel quite at home there. It's like staying with any in-laws, although they're often at their other place in Richmond." James, 34, and Julia have two children, Flora, three, and Alexander, one. They met at St Andrew's University. "We were just friends, then we fell in love. At university his connection with the Royal Family hardly ever came out."

"I'm glad I haven't got a title. In a career it would just be a hassle. Some people say they're only good for getting tables in restaurants. We got engaged in the March and married in the July, ten years ago. We thought we'd get on with it." The Queen and other members of the Royal Family attended the wedding. "Every girl's wedding day is both terrifying and wonderful. I wasn't daunted. They're just a wonderful, friendly family."

"James and I had very structured childhoods, with a similar moral upbringing. I was probably never going to be the school prefect, but nothing was ever bad enough to make me rebel. And James has never done anything wild in his life."

"He has a very close relationship with his parents. His mother was incredibly hard-working and attended lots of official functions, but tailored it so that she could be around

for the children. I'm quite an organised person and believe that having a set routine makes children secure. I'm definitely old-fashioned in that respect."

There are often guests staying at their five-bedroom Georgian house with one and a half acres of land. "Visitors mustn't have high expectations," she says. "I put the children to bed, go into the kitchen and say 'it'll be spaghetti again'. Our dining room comes off the kitchen and it's also a playroom. Everywhere's painted white."

She buys a season's worth of clothes from designers Starzewski and Amanda Wakeley at a time. "I buy all my underwear from M&S but my mother hates it when I say that. I bought a linen suit there this summer and everyone thought it was Ralph Lauren. "We only started wearing trouser suits at work recently. We thought the customers wouldn't like it."

She began her career in public relations for Garrard. "It was an easy way in." When, in 1992, Asprey bought Hamilton & Inches, she thought the job they were offering her was of marketing, not managing, director. "No one's ever given me the impression that they thought I couldn't do the job."

She thought the business needed "revitalising". Engagement rings would previously have started at £1,000. Now we've got some for £500. There's a complete mix of customers, aristocratic families who've kept their jewels in our vaults for a hundred years and people who've just made a lot of money. And I didn't say nouveau."

She suspected that Asprey was planning to sell its only Scottish shop earlier this year and approached them then. "It made me jumpy to think how we could have been sold off."

She is happy with life. "I have got two wonderful children, a job I love and a stake in the business." She even manages to look surprised when her husband presents her with a bauble from the shop.

"He has his favourite salesman here that he goes to. And of course I make sure he gets a nice discount."

'James has never done anything wild in his life'

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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There's no pleasing the Scots

They act like bolshie teenagers, argues Mary Ann Sieghart

Whenever I think about Scotland these days, I am reminded of those Marrakesh "tour guides" who promise to navigate you through the labyrinth of the soul for a fair few dirhams. Eventually you surrender to one, if only to ward off the attentions of his competitors who will continue to besiege you if you walk alone. But, by the end of the day, the previously agreed rate is apparently far too little. Through wheedling, threats and imprecations, the guide secures not only twice the negotiated fee, but a free lunch into the bargain. And, to add to the insult, he departs with a scowl on his face.

That Moroccan experience left me, like many visitors to the city, feeling irritated and bemused. I feel the same way about the ungraciousness of the Scots; and I suspect that Tony Blair, on his Scottish tour this week, does too. Why are they so bad-tempered and churlish now that they have achieved what they have always wanted — and more?

I have always been a passionate supporter of devolution. A year before the general election, I even took time off work here to make a film for the BBC arguing strongly that Scotland deserved to run its own affairs, that it had been neglected by Westminster — and most crucially — that, far from tearing the UK apart, devolution would keep it together.

The Scottish had two wholly understandable grouses. Why, however strongly they voted Labour, should they always be governed by Conservatives? And why, when they had their own legal system, could they not make their own laws in their own parliament, rather than being ruled by a satrap from Westminster?

The general election solved both problems overnight. At last the whole country voted the same way as Scotland, so the Scots had the party they wanted in Westminster. And then they were offered their own parliament, with more powers even than the version that they so nearly won in 1979. End of problem? Hardly.

Barely a day has passed since May 1, 1997, on which Scottish disgruntlement has not been voiced. Yes, they have a Labour Government, but it is the wrong type of Labour Government. Yes, they are to have a parliament, but it will have the wrong powers in the wrong building in the wrong part of Edinburgh.

Every ministerial pronouncement is willfully misinterpreted to be a slight on the Scottish people, exemplifying the patronising attitudes of the English (and if the minister is Scottish, then he becomes an honorary English villain, an Uncle Tom). Like dealing with an absurdly oversensitive relative, you have to opt out around for fear of giving unintended offence.

When Mr Blair quite innocently said, to justify giving Scotland the tax-raising powers it wanted, that even parish

councils were allowed to levy their own tax, he was merely pointing out the absurdity of Tory propaganda about the "tartan tax". Instantly, this was portrayed as a shocking insult, putting the Scottish parliament on the same level as a parish council. It was no such thing.

Rather like the "passive-aggressive" personality types portrayed by pop psychologists, Scotland seems to have a "superior-inferior" relationship with England. John Smith loved to characterise the Scots, particularly the middle classes, as morally superior to the English because they were more collectivist and altruistic — and, of course, they voted for his party. But they could comfortably vote Labour in Morningside, knowing that enough would vote Tory south of the border to ensure that their taxes would not rise.

Then there is the fabled superiority of Scottish education, a myth that persists despite Scottish schoolchildren routinely scoring the same as English pupils in international comparisons of maths and science skills. Yet public spending per schoolchild is some 30 per cent higher north of the border than south.

Scotland also thinks itself superior in the assertion of its national identity. The English are apparently to be pitted because they have so little sense of their own nationhood. Actually, the English are perfectly happy with their overlapping identities. That they feel little need for national display springs from their inner confidence.

The "inferior" part of the Scottish psyche leads to a maddening chippiness. Even when the Scottish feel superior, it is a superiority that has to be defined against the English. If we English measure ourselves against anyone, it is against foreign nations such as France, not Scotland. As far as we are concerned, the nations of the United Kingdom are all on the same side — unless they are playing football or rugby. But even then, most English people, if their own team is not playing, will support any of the other home countries before a foreign team. The Scottish would rather support Germany or Argentina than England.

I must be time for this hostility to end. The Scots are behaving like bolshie adolescents, always discontented, seeing conspiracies where none exists, lasting out at the slightest — or no — provocation. Any kind word or gift is pocketed and the hand held out for more. Generosity is despised.

Like the parent who wails "Whatever I say to her these days is wrong!", Mr Blair faces an audience in Scotland that is determined to be difficult. The Scots have been given the grown-up parliament that they have longed for all their lives. Now it is time for them to grow up too.



FROM THE TWO MINUTES' SILENCE TO THE THREE MINUTE WARNING...

Get a move on, William

The Tory leader has not got time to make significant errors of judgment, says Michael Gove

Billy Graham once observed that you can achieve almost anything in this life, if you're prepared not to take the credit. Dr Graham is, of course, rather more concerned about the next life than this but he has a point. It is a point which, I imagine, William Hague impressed upon Michael Portillo this week.

The Conservative leader may take his friend's advice seriously, indeed may often be inclined to act upon it, but does not, it seems, take kindly to 1,000 words of wisdom faxed to *The Daily Telegraph's* opinion page. It may then be counter-productive to direct some words to Mr Hague through these columns, doubly so given that the words echo some of Mr Portillo's. But, as the former Defence Secretary once said, he who dares wins, so here goes.

The Tory leader has made two serious personnel errors this week, and is apparently about to make a third. These mistakes reflect more than misjudgments about personalities; they reveal deeper defects in the Tories' political thinking. Mr Hague does not have time to make these errors, for if matters do not improve significantly within 12 months, he may not be around to choose the Tories' personnel. He could face a leadership challenge next November that would leave me, and others who yearn for him to succeed, cursing what might have been.

The first error was the nomination of Sir Alastair Goodlad to succeed Sir Leon Brittan as a European Commissioner. The second was the signal to Jeffrey Archer that the leadership would allow him a clear run at the nomination for London's mayor. The third would be the appointment of Jonathan Holborow as the party's communications chief.

The choice of Sir Alastair, against whom I bear no particular ill-will, was a great opportunity missed. Why nominate a man whose sympathies are so out of tune with Mr Hague's own? Sir Alastair is an Establishment Europhile who is only a nominal supporter of the Shadow Cabinet's anti-euro line. If appointed to Brussels he would as quickly adopt the Commission's line as he did Mr Hague's, and with greater zeal.

The final choice of communications is, of course, the Prime Minister's. Mr Hague may have thought that Sir Alastair had more chance of getting Downing Street approval than an

out-and-out Euro-sceptic, but why does he want their approval? Why the pre-emptive cringe? Why not nominate a talented administrator with impeccable sceptical credentials like Sir Michael Forsyth, the former Scottish Secretary? If Tony Blair rejected him, then so much the better, for it would show the Prime Minister in his true, partisan, and pro-European colours. A chance has been missed to promote a young and talented Euro-sceptic, and the face the Tory party has projected is the careworn countenance of a leftover from the Major years.

Which brings one to Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. I do bear him particular ill-will. If he is nominated as the Tory candidate for London's mayor, I would not just spoil my ballot paper, I would make of it a funeral pyre. How anyone who has read Michael Crick's biography of this fantasist could allow him to run a bath, let alone for office, let alone the capital city, is beyond me. But even if

Lord Archer were a byword for probity, he would still deserve to be stopped. The race for the mayoralty is a peerless opportunity for the Tories to show a modern and attractive face. Can they really do no better than this clown who first capered on the national stage beside *The Beatles*? Where are the talented businessmen or the gifted local government figures? Why not find, and ruthlessly promote, a young, professional Euro-sceptic woman to show what modern Conservatism should look like?

Whatever modern Conservatism looks like, it doesn't look like Jonathan Holborow. I should bear the former Editor of *The Mail on Sunday* some ill-will. He once turned me down for a job. But he was right to do so, for it was a post for which I was ill-suited by age and temperament. Just as he is ill-suited for the job of Tory communications chief.

On a personal level, he lacks the dynamism, the hunger and the

political zeal required. If he had to take, early retirement because the hurry-burry of editing a weekly paper which faced a fading opposition was too much for him, why should he be equipped for the 24-hour-a-day grind of fighting a dominant Government? Mr Portillo, rightly, argued this week that the Tories need to find their way. Because Mr Blair found his in Alastair Campbell the myth has become established that the Conservatives need a tabloid journalist to project themselves. Such a conclusion shows how the party still misunderstands the reasons for new Labour's success. Alastair Campbell is good not because he was once a journalist, but because he has always been a politician. He served his apprenticeship at *The Mirror* rather than Millbank but his genius rests in his strategic grasp of campaigning and his superb instinct for fashioning propaganda. While at *The Daily Mirror* he was not a story-getter in the mould of the *Mail* or *Sun* team. He was a speech-

writer and image-burnisher by appointment to the Kinnock court. His ambition was not to edit a title, or push up circulation but, single-mindedly, to propel Labour into power.

What the Tories require, and urgently, is a strategist who can develop broad themes, and compelling narratives, which tell Britain what the purpose of electing the Conservatives would be. Margaret Thatcher had a story to sustain her — she was the woman who would cure the British disease. It would hurt, by God it would hurt, but the pain could be borne because the reason for its infliction was apparent.

The Conservatives need an individual, or a team, who will persuade Britain that it needs less government, and less politics. Their responses on devolution, education, Lords reform and Europe should be connected by a sustained vision of a better future. The Tories enjoy a lead on Europe, but they enjoy it in the way an

absentee landlord enjoyed his Irish acres, happy to contemplate it but showing no energy for developing it.

The Tories do not need so much to harden their opposition to the euro as explain why it springs, naturally, from a broader approach to politics. At the moment the Tory stance on the single currency can be caricatured as obsessive hostility to a single policy. They should explain that the reasons for their opposition — a belief in power being exercised accountably, a faith in limited government, a distrust of devices that need new rules and new taxes — apply everywhere. The same impulses, they should argue, lead them to favour particular reforms in health, education and local government. They should explain that they care as much about hospitals, schools and councils as the pound, which is why they have ideas to set them free and make them accountable. Only connect.

Mr Hague is cautious about saying too much at this stage. He argues that he wants to present a small target. Well, at just over 30 per cent in the polls the target is too small. The Tories have to start showing now what they could do in power. Unlike other Oppositions, whether in Australia a few years ago or Britain in the late Seventies, the Tories' position is not so sound that the party can afford to mark time.

If, by the time of the next Tory conference, there has not been a significant increase in the party's poll ratings, the cry will go out among twitchy candidates and bewildered activists for a big hitter. And which rough beast, its hour come at last, will slouch towards Blackpool? Ken Clarke. He and not Michael Portillo, is in a position to challenge for the leadership. He could do so this time next year. His appeal would be simple, a heavyweight who is still popular with the grass roots. His supporters would inquire of Tory sceptics whether they would rather try to influence a Europhile from their own party in No 10 or rage against a Labour one. Mr Hague should learn another lesson from Billy Graham, and start evangelising with as much energy, and detail, as he can. Otherwise he may find there will be someone else taking the credit when this Government falls.

Simon Jenkins returns next week.

Philip Howard



Lost and floundering in the English language

The menu for room service at the Laleh International Hotel, Tehran, offers "Fish Cheeps", "Scram Bled Eggs" and "Portast Steak". That is not globe-trotting gastronomy from the horse's mouth. The menu was sent to me by a Scottish friend. And it illustrates an English joke as old as Shakespeare and Chaucer: the funny way that foreigners have with the funny English language.

We call such mistakes solecisms. And that itself is a strange word. In the 7th century BC Greeks from Rhodes founded a colony at Soli, at the southern tip of what is now Turkey. This was beyond the black stump and up Tombstone Gulch, at the farthest end of the civilised world. To the south and east lay Injun country swarming with Phoenicians, Persians and other barbarians. Not surprisingly the colonists developed a frontier dialect that Athenian purists considered barbarous. So they invented the slang *soliokis* to mean speaking uncouthly.

Not many stones remain of Soli. But its name lives on, in modern European languages, as an insult and a reminder of the way its citizens "ruined" Greece. A classic example is Pedro Carolino. In 1833 he published an English-Portuguese phrasebook in spite of having little or no command of English and no Portuguese-English dictionary. He worked with Portuguese-French and French-English dictionaries. And through their double translation produced phrases for Portuguese holidaymakers: "Dress your hairs; Undress you to; She make the pride; and He has lost his all good."

Familiar dialogues, "For to ride a horse", begins: "Here is a horse who have bad looks. Give me another, I will not that. He not tall know to march. He is pursy, he is floundered. Don't you are ashamed to give me a jade as like? He is unshod, he is with nails up." "Idiotisms and proverbs" include: "The stone as roll not heap up not foam, and The dog that bark not bite." There is poetry as well as power in the solecism. Pedro gave us memorable advice on: "To crunch a marmoset". At the World Climate Conference in Buenos Aires yesterday John Prescott showed how one of the most powerful public speakers in English has built his reputation on solecism.

"Don't you know the Queen's English?" "Of course I do, and so is the Deputy Prime Minister." Cultural and linguistic differences mean that people generally do not find a joke in a foreign language funny. But some jokes are universal. And one is about the long-gone inhabitants of Soli. They were one of the first social and regional groups to be stereotyped as stupid.

In England the Irish joke has replaced the Soliokis. "There was this Irishman..." is an introduction signalling something stupid to be said or done. This is odd, considering the brilliant contributions of the Irish to English literature. But the Irish are people to whom God has been kind, but nobody else is, not even the Irish. And most civilisations have their target for Soli jokes. Dubliners make such jokes about people from Cork. And in Cork, the targets for the silly-sass joke are the people from Galway.

In Europe the butts of a joke are usually people living to the west. In Soli, they were barbarians to the east. In Tonga, such jokes are made about people from an island called Ena. Central African tribes refer to pygmies in this way. And the same joke turns up in many languages. Have you heard the one about the Sareehi boy who ran after a bus all the way home? Then he boasts to his mother that he has saved 20p. She calls him an idiot, saying that if he had chased a taxi, he would have saved £1. The original joke was told in Arabic, and the monetary units were Jordanian. But it was probably told 25 centuries ago by patronising Athenians about the boy from Soli chasing a Cilician camel train.

Verbatim, the language quarterly, is to be revived. And its first issue contains a new crop of solecisms from "floundering fathers" to "all my bored days..." Which of us manages to pass a day without committing a solecism? Possibly Conrad Russell and Tony Quinton? The rest of us must sit back and enjoy the ancient linguistic bloopers from Soli.

Nanny's fate

HARRIET HARMAN'S nanny is taking the former Cabinet minister to an employment tribunal. And the union boss who is charged with fighting the toiler's case? One Jack Dromey, alias Mr Harriet Harman, Liz Bannister, who after looking after the Harman sprogs took over her constituency office, was off-loaded when Ms Harman was sacked by Tony Blair; and she feels this was a shade unjust. Ms Bannister is backed by the T&G, whose big player is Ms Harman's husband. Ms Bannister worked for the Harmans (pictured) for about eight years, ending up in the then Social Security Secretary's political office. While T&G HQ was unusually shy about a tribunal case, Siobhan Wilson, its branch secretary in the Commons, was more forthcoming.

"There has been no settlement," she tells me. "It is all a matter of due process. There has only ever been one case of an MP being brought to an industrial tribunal. Usually these grievances are settled before it reaches that stage."

Ms Harman tells me that she had to let Ms Bannister go because she had to cut the number of slaves in her office after her demotion.

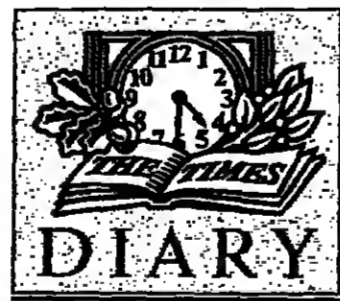
"I had to reorganise my parliamentary office to include a researcher with specific expertise," she tells me. "I had to make Liz redundant to recruit somebody with the expertise I needed. I am going to compensate her for the



loss of her job. I hope I learned friends find her offer sufficient.

● **PATRIOTISM, Labour style.** A Labour whip was in the tea rooms scooping up a handful of poppies, handing them round with orders to wear them in the chamber. And no contribution was put in the box.

● **Cash convert** THAT collapsed Roman Catholic, Catherine Cookson, was lured



back to Rome only months before she died. The prelate who achieved this conversion was Father Tom Power, now retired in Ireland; and he, lucky chap, has received the unexpected boon of 10,000 big ones from the late author in her will. "It is a very private thing between Catherine and I," he says. "It is the Lord's work."

● **NOT only is Quentin Crisp out but now he is online.** At 90, he is launching his own website (www.quentincrip.com, for nerdy flower) from his garret in Manhattan. Ron Davies and other confused sorts can e-mail him; prizes to his wildest correspondent.

● **Slim pickings** TOMMY GRAHAM, the larger than lunch suspended Labour MP,

has had his role slumped down. Despite bringing a wealth of experience to the table, the Scottish trencher fiend has been removed from the House of Commons catering committee after falling out with Tony Blair.

Lindsay Hoyle, MP, denied Graham had been ousted because of his keen interest in the committee's work: "Just because he is a large chap, I don't think that was grounds for him being removed."

● **NEWS of the Church of England's review into bishops' expenses reached my ears last Tuesday.** But when I spoke to Lesley Perry, the Archbishop of Canterbury's press attaché, she denied any knowledge of the inquiry. Yet less than 48 hours later, she was faxing all national newspapers with a press release on the story.

● **Making up** WAGNER atones, courtesy of the Saatchi brothers. Gottfried Wagner, great-grandson of the great composer, has finally been rewarded for outing his family as enthusiastic right-wing types. The Saatchi synagogue has invited Herr Wagner to speak, after he published a book last year outing his grandmother as a close mucker of Hitler's. These gatherings are



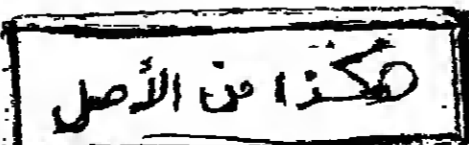
set to become the focal point for the North London Volvo, shiraz and Whitehouse crowd. Harrison Ford and Yitzhak Shamir, the former Israeli leader, will follow, but only after Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and Ken Livingstone slog it out with, well, bagels at ten paces.

● **Video naughty** BROADENING the readership, *Church Times* style. Last week's edition included a supplement peddling a video club. Not a problem, one would think, but for the fact that one of the videos in the pamphlet — represented by an

enticing picture — was that invigorating oeuvre *Emmanuelle* (above). Not all clerics enjoyed the improvements. As one on the paper said: "Ready, get stroppy about all kinds of things."

● **CHARLIE WHELAN'S** life is so frenetic he has bought a second mobile phone. Gordon Brown's big spin-doctor, bon viveur and personal Red Lion, has bought a "world phone" (German natural) to go with his domestic model. This follows a recent telephone bill, which admittedly included a trip to *Chino*, of £7,000. Hoovy spin.

JASPER GERARD



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 10: The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon left Dublin in the Republic of Ireland and later arrived at City Airport, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, afterwards attended the General Council at the Waterfront Hotel, Belfast, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast (Colonel Elliott Wilson).

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit the White Tower at the Tower of London at 11.30. Later they will host a reception at Buckingham Palace to mark the 50th birthday of the Prince of Wales in recognition of the achievements of the many organisations linked with His Royal Highness, who will attend with representatives from those organisations at 6.00.

Dinners

University of Bristol
The Lord-Lieutenant for Bristol, Mr Jay Tidmarsh, attended a dinner held for patrons and friends of the University of Bristol last night at the Institution of Civil Engineers, London.

Birthdays today

Sir Ewart Bell, former civil servant, 74; Admiral Sir Roger Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, 63; Sir John Coles, former diplomat, 61; Miss Whorpe Goldberg, actress, 43; Lord Jacobs, 67; the Rev Patricia Johns, former Headmistress, St Mary's School, Warrage, 66; Mr Kenneth Kemp, former chairman, Smith and Nephew, 77; Major John J. Lunt, 81; Mr John B. McGuckian, chairman, Ulster Television, 59; Dr Basil Morson, clinical pathologist, 77; Admiral Sir William O'Brien, 82; Mrs Alexandra Shulman, Editor, British Vogue, 41; Sir Donald Thompson, former MP, 67; Sir Miles Walker, former Chief Minister, Isle of Man Government, 58.

Bristol Grammar School

The Board of Governors of Bristol Grammar School announce the appointment of Dr David Mascoff, BA, PhD, as Headmaster to succeed Mr Charles Martin on his retirement in August 1999. Dr Mascoff is presently Deputy Headmaster of Bristol Grammar School.

The Purcell School

The Governors of The Purcell School have appointed Mr John Tolpitt to be Headmaster, in succession to Mr John Balin. Mr Tolpitt, who is at present Headmaster of Rendcomb College, Gloucester, will take up his appointment on September 1, 1999.

Reception

Middle East International
Sir Dennis Wallers, Chairman, and Directors of Middle East International held a reception last night at the Royal Thames Yacht Club to mark the occasion of the re-design of the publication Middle East International.

Service dinner

Fyde Officers' Association
The High Sheriff of Lancashire was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Fyde Officers' Association held at the Savoy Hotel, Blackpool, last night. Acting Chairman K.J.M. Proctor, Acting Chief Executive, Maintenance Defence Agency, was the principal service guest.



Regina Krahl, curator of the 100 Masterpieces of Imperial Chinese Ceramic exhibition, with a rare 15th-century Imperial Ming jar. The exhibition opens at the Royal Academy next Tuesday

Memorial service

Sir David Hunt
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir David Hunt, a former diplomat, held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.J.H. Bloy and Miss E.D. Klori
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Bloy, of Hove, East Sussex, and Eleni, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kyriacos Klori, of Akantou, Cyprus.
Mr N.J. Buttery and Miss D.M. Templeman
The engagement is announced between Nathan, son of Dr and Mrs Roger Buttery, of Cambridge, and Debbie, daughter of the Rev the Hon and Mrs Peter Templeman, of Finchley, London.

Anniversaries

BIKTHS: St Augustine of Hippo, Tagaste, Numidia (modern Tunisia); 354; King Edward III, reigned 1327-77, Windsor, 1312; Sir John Moore, general, Glasgow, 1761; Charles Frederick Wootton, fashion designer, Bourn, Lincolnshire, 1825; Robert Louis Stevenson, novelist, Edinburgh, 1850.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Michael Houlder, Priest-in-Charge, Edenhope (Sussex, Australia), to be Curate, Twickenham (Lichfield).
The Rev William Mowl, Vicar, Boughton under Bleau with Dunrick and Hemhill (Cambridge), to continue as Rural Dean of Osprey (same diocese).

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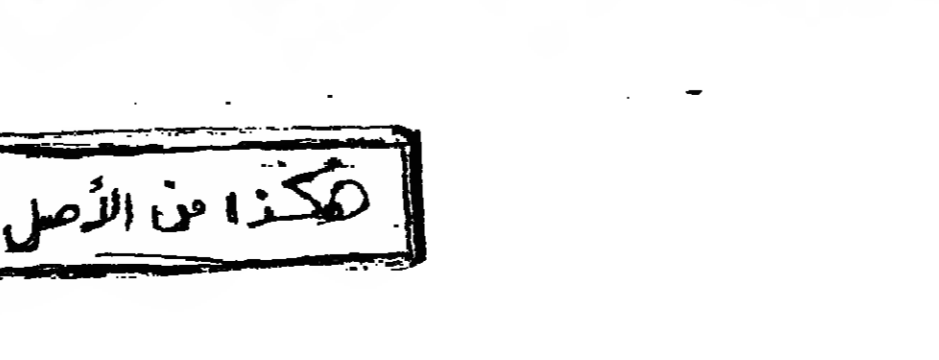
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BIRTHS
ACHESON-GRAY - On November 10th 1998, to Miranda (née Wilson) and Colin, a daughter, Mary, a sister for Lucy.
ASHWORTH-KWASNIK - On 2nd November 1998, to Tania and Stefan, a beloved son, Benjamin Chasor Alexander, a dear brother for Georgina.
BARTON - On November 8th 1998, to Frances (née Emrys-Roberts) and Andy, a daughter, Hannah Clare Emrys, a sister for Jessica and Christopher.

DEATHS
BAIN - Hector Christian (née Maddison Green) peacefully on 11th November in her 91st year. Much loved by daughter Sue and son-in-law Roy and grandson, James. Funeral at St. Augustine's Church, Brentwood on 12th November at 11.00am. Family and close friends flowers only please. Donations if desired for British Red Cross or Isabel Hospital, Ware. Tel:01920 463500.

DEATHS
ROCHE - Major Terence John Roche died peacefully on November 11th 1998 aged 71. Beloved husband of Joyce, brother of Brian and Paul, father of Fiona and Teresa. Father-in-law of Chris and Marie, and grandfather of his darling, Matthew, Alan, George and Henry. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. No flowers.

Advertisements for various services including 'TICKETS FOR SALE', 'FLATSHARE', 'FLIGHTS DIRECTORY', 'FARESAVER', 'ANTIQUE & COLLECTABLES', 'OVERSEAS TRAVEL', 'WANTED', 'SERVICES', 'PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS', 'FOR SALE', 'ALL TICKETS', 'ALL SOULD OUT EVENTS', 'FLATSHARE', 'JETWORLD'.



hcoming rriages

Mr R. Mansfield and Miss C.G. Spencer... Mr D.L. Marinova and Miss A.L.K. Taylor... Mr I.N. Peet and Miss C.B. Moore...

Anniversaries

Mr P. McFerran and Miss S.R.A. Hodgins... Mr B. Munro and Miss C.M. Price-White...

Church news

St Andrew's Church, London... St Martin's Church, London...

OBITUARIES

PETER COTES

Peter Cotes, actor, producer and director, died on November 10 aged 86. He was born on March 19, 1912.

Peter Cotes had the misfortune to be the first director of The Mousetrap... Cotes had an active career in the 1950s and 1960s as a film and television director...

or Manchester's Library Theatre, and it was with venues such as these that Cotes made his name as a producer of challenging new drama.

Cotes found the tyranny of the star system if anything even more repugnant than censorship... Cotes' reluctance to compromise seemed to become more marked over the years...



Cotes: success with The Mousetrap overshadowed a varied career

demanding corrections, even in the 1990s, to newspaper articles which overlooked his role, and going so far as to reproduce in an appendix to his 1993 autobiography every positive reference to his directing from the show's original reviews.

used in court — was Sydney Arthur Rembrandt Boulting. His theatrical pseudonym, derived from a house called "Northotes" in which he had lived as a child, was taken to avoid any confusion with his younger siblings John and Roy, the famous Boulting Brothers, "the British film twins".

He was born in Maidenhead, to parents who had been actors in South Africa and who retained a great love of the stage... Cotes returned to the capital in 1950, reopening the Boltons theatre in South Kensington as the New Boltons in November that year.

1946. Three months later he produced the play which established his reputation as a champion of independent drama... Cotes was proud of his work on The Mousetrap, even though it was in no sense an artistic match for some of his other productions.

working for Binkie Beaumont in the West End; engaged to direct Deep are the Roots, a Broadway drama about racial prejudice... His first marriage, to Myfanwy Jones, was dissolved. His second wife, the Canadian-born actress Joan Miller, died in 1988.

HENRY JAMES

Henry James, civil servant, died on November 10 aged 78. He was born on December 12, 1919.



James believed his role at No 10 was to help the press

HENRY JAMES had the unique distinction of being press secretary to four postwar Prime Ministers... In 1949 he married Sylvia Bickell, a school romance, and together they forged a lifelong partnership...

Bickell, a school romance, and together they forged a lifelong partnership that encompassed all the facets of his work and their shared passion for the theatre.

self fortunate that he then entered the Government Information and Communication Service, which was establishing itself after the years of propaganda.

He then spent time as the chief press officer at the Ministry of Education for a year, 1963-64... The relationships and confidence James established with the American media while working for Harold Wilson helped to strengthen the so-called "special relationship" at a critical time.

Downing Street as press secretary to Margaret Thatcher and the newly elected Conservative Government... He was seconded back to Downing Street as press secretary to Margaret Thatcher...

SVETLANA BERIOSOVA

Svetlana Beriosova, ballerina, died in London on November 10 aged 66. She was born in Kaunas, Lithuania, on September 24, 1932.



Svetlana Beriosova dancing the Princess Aurora in The Sleeping Beauty at Covent Garden in 1960

IT IS a curious example of the continuity of ballet tradition that Svetlana Beriosova, who was born in Lithuania and had her early training entirely in the Russian manner, became with the Royal Ballet one of the outstanding dancers in the English classical style.

Later that year she appeared with the Grand Ballet de Monte Carlo and with Metropolitan Ballet... Her roles included Odette in Swan Lake, the Street Dancer in Le Beau Danube and Giselle (the second act only at that time).

and The Sleeping Beauty, and she accepted several invitations to dance with the state companies of Europe... Her marriage to Dr Masud Khan was dissolved in 1974. They had no children.

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THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

In drama and novel, more recently in the cinema, also, the figure of the Scarlet Pimpernel, the indolent marconian who dared the terrors of the Revolution in France and snatched beauty and high birth from the guillotine, induced the pleasantest of innocent thrills.

ON THIS DAY

November 13, 1947

The success of Baroness Orczy with her stage character, as described by her obituarist, illustrates the truth of the old saying: "If at first you don't succeed..."

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

far. Then in 1904 she produced the manuscript of a novel, The Scarlet Pimpernel, based upon one of her short stories. The manuscript was rejected by no fewer than 12 publishers.

NEWS

Time running out for Saddam

All Britons were given a warning yesterday to leave Iraq and news organizations were told not to send journalists to the country as large-scale military attacks appeared inevitable.

Overhaul of young offenders' jail

Britain's first child jail is undergoing a sweeping overhaul after months of crisis and turmoil, during which young offenders wrecked classrooms, their rooms and kitchens.

Smugglers' error

The careers of a gang of drug smugglers ended when their lorry, containing £728 million worth of heroin, became wedged in the Blackwall Tunnel.

Assembly threatened

Alan Michael, the new Welsh Secretary, is threatening to scrap plans to build the new £10 million seafront Welsh assembly building, already nicknamed 'Crystal Balls'.

BSE probe blocked

A proposal for a judicial inquiry into the government's handling of BSE was turned down early in 1996 by John Major, then Prime Minister.

Dinosaur discovery

A new crocodile-like dinosaur has been found in the deserts of Niger. Nearly 36 feet long, the creature had long, narrow jaws, a fin-like tail and large, curved claws.

Age of reason

At 16, Martha Orbach says she has been through her teenage rebellion. But living in an "ecovillage" in West Wales she could hardly run away and join a band of New Age travellers.

DNA joins hunt

Scientists were preparing yesterday to conduct DNA tests on hair from a child resembling Ben Needham, who vanished seven years ago in Greece.

Child sex inquiry

Two nursery teachers who allegedly abused more than 60 children in their care were probably part of a paedophile ring, an inquiry has concluded.

Rebuilding Honduras

In the post-hurricane reconstruction effort in Honduras, it may be a British bridge-building company that provides one of the key components in getting the country back on its feet.

Stamp of approval

A Dalek, a potato and Freddie Mercury have been chosen ahead of kings and queens to mark 1,000 years of British history in the Royal Mail's millennium stamp collection.

Violence in Jakarta

Violence broke out in the Indonesian capital for a second day yesterday as the military tried to prevent students from marching on parliament.

Blair's vision

Tony Blair presented his vision of a Britain united through generations by common values and shared ideals that should not be sacrificed to the "narrow politics of identity".

The Jackal's will

Carlos the Jackal has written a will in which he calls on fellow guerrillas to murder "one American or Zionist" for every day he has spent in jail.

Stars' trainers become art

Celebrities were overshadowed last night by those that had silently carried them on their paths to glory: their training shoes.

The stars may come and go, but there will always be others to fill their shoes, said the organisers of the first art exhibition featuring trainers, which opened yesterday.



A gondolier passes striking water taxis, protesting at the Venice municipal government's plan to increase the number of taxis

BUSINESS

BT warns: Shares of British Telecom fell yesterday after the company reported flat earnings and said it saw firm evidence of a slowdown in the British economy.

SPORT

Football: Roy Evans stepped down as joint manager of Liverpool, leaving Gérard Houllier in sole charge. Phil Thompson, a former club captain, will be his assistant.

ARTS

Lucky for some: "Wouldn't life be sweeter if I'd played no part? Don't be daft. It would be unbearable."

FEATURES

Panic buying: "Christmas invariably finds me a state of hopeless disorder - and I am in a state of simmering panic until January 6."

Zecca demerger

Zecca, the pharmaceuticals company demerged from ICI, plans to sell or float its specialities chemicals division.

Rugby union

Jason White, the Glasgow Caledonians flanker, was banned for 16 weeks for stamping on Braam van Straaten, the South African fly half.

Pop 1: What's a nice thrash metal monster like

Like Metallica's drummer, Lars Ulrich, doing taking tea in a posh place like Claridges? David Sinclair finds out.

Class act

Society jeweller Julia Ogilvy married into the Royal Family.

George cyberquiz

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, fended off hostile questions when he staged his first live appearance on the Internet.

Cricket

Dominic Cork, Nasser Hussain, Mark Ramprakash and Alastair Brown were omitted from England's provisional squad for the one-day series in Australia.

Pop 2: The week's new albums

reviewed, from the purity and depth of Jewel's vision to Seal's latest and the boys from East 17.

Watch the box

A ruling by the Independent Television Commission about a Kurdish satellite TV channel has enormous significance.

Markets

The FTSE 100 fell 27.8 to 5449.0. The pound fell .80 cents to \$1.6532 and rose 1.07 pips to DM2.7952.

Tennis

Greg Rusedski moved within touching distance of the ATP Tour championship in Hannover when he defeated Vincent Spadea in Stockholm.

Baby blues

The exiled Soho Theatre has not been idle while waiting for its new home to be completed.

Education

Art attack: Lord Yehudi Menuhin on how the arts can keep kids on the straight and narrow.

TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

LESSONS IN DEATH

Josie Russell's headmistress on the morning after the murders

THIRTYNOTHINGS

Linda Evangelista on survival after 30



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,948

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 27 indicating the starting positions for the clues.

- ACROSS
1 Call for artist to produce exciting work (4-9).
6 Poet's old verse I had abridged (4).
10 Line written on distinctive atmosphere of hearing (5).
11 Ancient region, a kingdom in love with monarch (4,5).
12 Gray, for example, or Burton, saddy? (9).
13 Paris paper largely supplies useless article (5).
14 Criminal type creating quite a storm (7).
15 Travelling in France, force to fly in various directions (2,5).
17 In part of Bible, really boring bits? (7).
19 Pusty parents ensure their infants make progress in them (7).
21 Fly back, for example, in poor visibility (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,947. A grid of letters with some letters highlighted in bold to show the solution.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0330 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0330 401 410

World City Weather

150 destinations world wide
0 day forecasts
0330 411216

Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA news of 195 cars
0330 410 200

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations. Sun rises: 7:15 am, Sun sets: 4:14 pm.

FORECAST

General: parts of eastern England may have some early drizzle, but it will be gone by midday. North-west and central England will start cold with sunny spells, but cloud and rain in the southwest will move to most of England this afternoon.

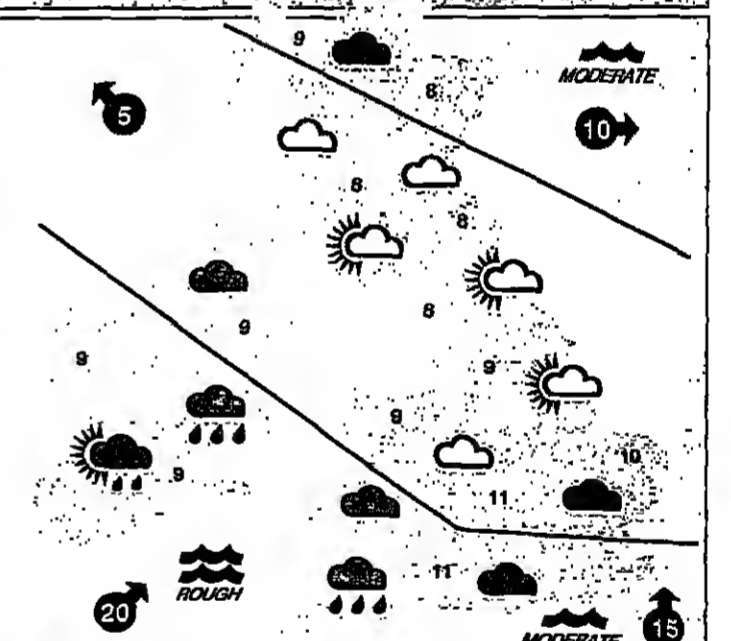
AROUND BRITAIN

Table showing weather forecasts for various British locations. Includes columns for Sun, Rain, Wind, and Max/Min temperatures.

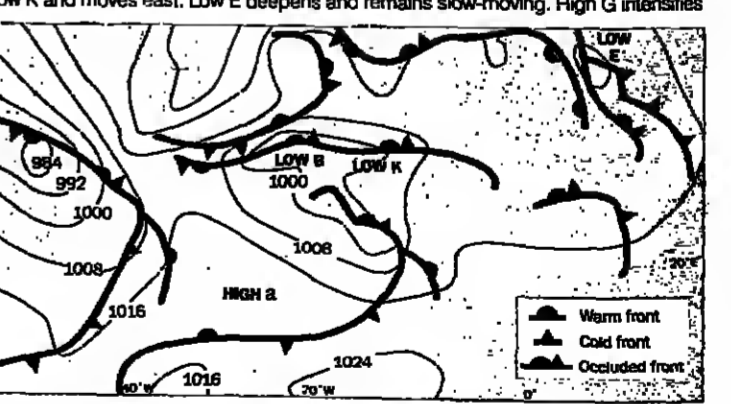
ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations. Includes columns for Sun, Rain, Wind, and Max/Min temperatures.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon. Low B remains its identity. Deepening low V absorbs low K and moves east. Low E deepens and loses its identity. High G intensifies



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations. Columns include location, AM, HT, PM, HT.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Epsom, Surrey, 8.2C.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up of 46.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997.

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 13 NOVEMBER 1998. Total number of lives saved so far this year: 820. Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 4,588.

Advertisement for BT channels and Lifeboats. Includes text like 'BT channels figure' and 'Lifeboats'.

كندا من الاصل

THE TIMES

AY NOVEMBER 13 1998

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The Asian sketch show...

Countdown over Iraq

Pacts Britannica

Gold stars

COLUMNS

MICHAEL GOVE

MARY ANN SIEGHART

PHILIP HOWARD

OBITUARIES

LETTERS

WIND TODAY

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INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS The banana split that threatens a trade war PAGE 31



ARTS Lars Ulrich beats the drum for mighty Metallica PAGES 35-38



MEDIA How ONdigital's chief plans to reach for Sky PAGES 39-42

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

BT chief says Brown's figures 'too optimistic'

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

BRITISH TELECOM said yesterday that it was preparing for a slowdown in the economy and suggested that Gordon Brown's forecasts for GDP growth were too optimistic.

BT reported pre-tax profits of £1.87 billion for the second quarter to September 30. These included exceptional income of £1.07 billion, largely reflecting the profit of more than £1.1 billion from the sale of BT's stake in MCI, the US telecoms company.



Sir Peter Bonfield predicts a slowdown in growth, but rules out an economic bloodbath

The mark-down in the share price partly reflected a growing realisation of the increased competition BT would face in its new international markets. International call turnover declined by 8 per cent to £373 million in the second quarter despite an 8 per cent increase in volume.

ICI emerges as potential buyer in Zeneca deal

BY PAUL DURMAN

ICI has declared itself a potential buyer of the specialty chemicals division put up for sale yesterday by Zeneca — a deal that would reunite the business with its former owner.

ICI is attempting to reinvent itself as a specialty chemicals company, but it may struggle to afford the £1 billion-£1.5 billion price tag that analysts expect the Zeneca business to fetch.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with stock market indices, US rates, London money, and sterling exchange rates.

Tories in £100m rail link bill claim

THE Government was yesterday accused of adding £100 million to the cost of building the Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link through an off-balance sheet accounting move that keeps down the public sector borrowing requirement.

Shell sheds 20% of oil products workforce

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

THOUSANDS of Shell employees were yesterday told that their jobs would be eliminated in a massive restructuring of the oil company's refining and marketing businesses across Europe.

Wassall builds up BICC stake

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

WASSALL, the acquisitive industrial conglomerate, has built up a 7.35 per cent stake in BICC, the struggling cables and construction business.

Scottish Media tunes in to Capital Radio

BY JASON NISSÉ AND CHRIS AYRES

SCOTTISH Media Group, whose interests range from television to newspapers, is looking at making a £500 million offer for Capital Radio as part of its attempts to break out of its Scottish base.

reLAX THE WORLD'S MOST COMFORTABLE BUSINESS CLASS FLIES TO L.A. DAILY. AIR NEW ZEALAND

IMF team finalising Brazil loan

The International Monetary Fund was last night finalising a multibillion-dollar loan package for Brazil, expected to be announced in full today. Negotiators were still working on a statement of policy commitments that Brazil has made in return for the loans. Speculation on the package's size ranges from \$30 billion (£18 billion) to \$45 billion. The total depends on how much extra money is provided by bilateral lenders such as the US and other Group of Seven members. Sixteen nations are expected to take part in the effort to stabilise investor confidence in Brazil.

GEI awaits payout
GEI International, the processing machinery group, hopes to receive at least £2.3 million early next year after legal action in the US to recover environmental clean-up costs. Metramatic, its New Jersey subsidiary, was in a 1991 contamination incident and GEI sought the costs from insurers. GEI made interim pre-tax profits of £2.5 million (£1 million loss last time). Earnings were 4.47p a share (4.92p loss). The dividend is 1.5p again.

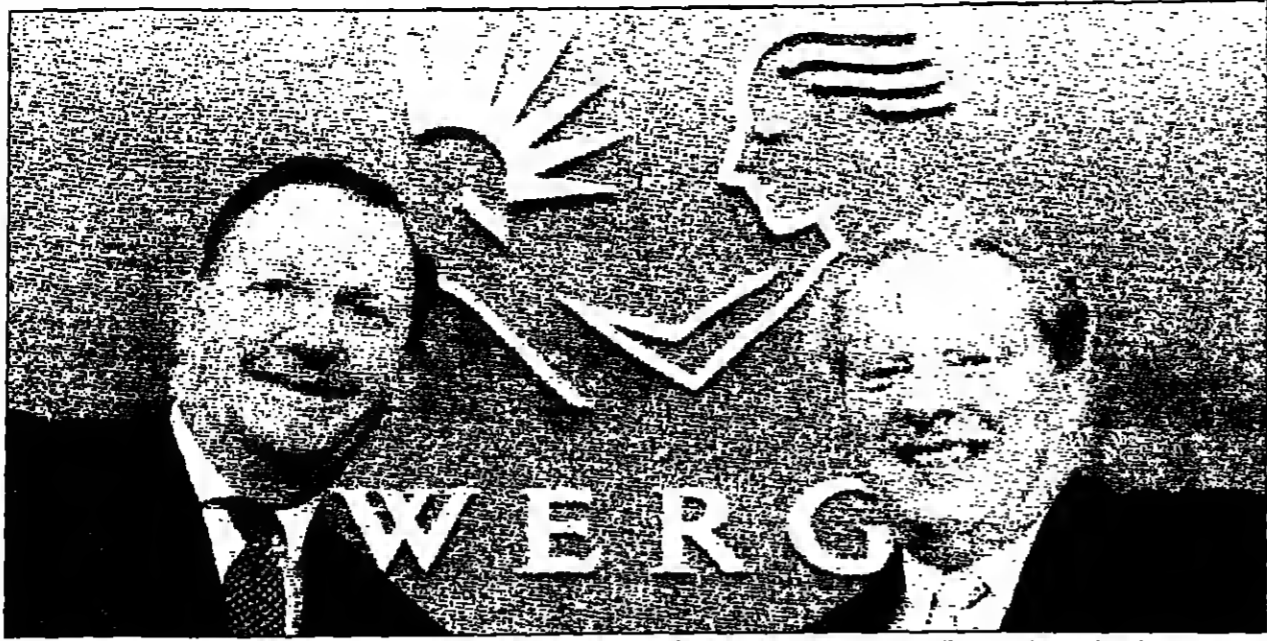
Gerrard's record
Cerrard Group, the financial group, made record pre-tax profits of £20.4 million in the half year to September 30, up from £14.4 million, but says that second-half trading may be tougher. Earnings per share rose to 18.5p (13.5p). The interim dividend remains 8p. Greig Middleton, the stockbroker subsidiary, is to withdraw from mainstream institutional agency broking.

Chrysler's farewell
Chrysler's shares yesterday ceased trading on the New York Stock Exchange, ending a 73-year run, after completion of its \$37 billion (£22 billion) merger with Daimler-Benz of Germany. Daimler-Chrysler shares will be listed in New York and Frankfurt.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	20.71	15.06
Austria Sch	61.00	56.04
Canada \$	2.682	2.498
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8716	0.8001
Denmark Kr	11.24	10.35
Spain Ptas	5.28	5.24
Finland Mkk	9.07	8.32
France FF	9.87	9.09
Germany DM	2.865	2.723
Greece Dr	495	458
Hong Kong \$	13.65	12.49
India Rs	129	100
Indonesia Rp	1,0948	1,1348
Japan Yen	1,1789	1,0999
Korea Won	7.57	6.71
Italy Lira	2947	2710
Japan Yen	219.95	207.42
Malta Lm	0.653	0.604
Netherlands Gld	3.250	3.055
New Zealand \$	3.28	3.02
Norway Kr	13.07	12.13
Portugal Esc	209.62	277.59
S Africa Rnd	10.19	9.23
Spain Ptas	249.68	230.89
Sweden Kr	14.21	13.11
Switzerland FF	2.402	2.244
Turkey Lira	504130	470521
USA \$	1.764	1.621

Rates for small denomination denominations only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to transfer's charges. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Peter Hickson, finance director of PowerGen, left, and Ed Wallis, who described the Australian market as less bureaucratic

PowerGen turns its attention to Australia

By FRASER NELSON

POWERGEN, Britain's largest electricity company, is growing tired of hunting for a £1 billion acquisition in America and is now turning its attentions towards Australia.

Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen, said that the deregulation of the American electricity is taking much longer to mature than he had at first expected. The company has been searching for a deal in the US for the past 18 months.

The Australian market, he said, was far less bureaucratic and easier for overseas companies to invest in — with the New South Wales electricity

network due to be privatised in the New Year.

Mr Wallis, who is also chairman of LucasVarity, whose plans to move to the US were blocked by investors last week, said: "The US is a very big, complicated country and it's not really ready yet. The pace of deregulation has been slow, but in Australia things are much easier."

PowerGen could also bid for one of the privatised electricity companies in Victoria, he said, or wait for the New South Wales sell-off to get under way. "We are prepared to look at whatever opportunities come

up," he said. "We have a big coalmine power station there, and a full PowerGen team."

He added that the company's Yallourn power station is beginning to benefit from a recovery of electricity pool prices in Victoria.

Although PowerGen has only £22 million of cash in the bank, it is expected to raise up to £1 billion from selling 4,000MW of coal generating capacity. It promised this disposal to win regulatory approval for its July £1.9 billion acquisition of East Midlands Electricity.

The cold summer increased demand for electricity by 2.5 per cent across England and Wales, allowing the company to capitalise on poor performance from its rival nuclear power producers.

This, with £19 million of profit contributed by new acquisitions, helped group pre-tax profit to £156 million (£154 million) for the six months to September 27.

Earnings were 18.6p (12.5p loss) for the six months, and the interim dividend rises to 10p (9p) per share. PowerGen shares fell 18p to 869p.

Tempus, page 30

Societies urged to help poor

BUILDING societies are being urged by the Government to help to tackle social exclusion (Anne Ashworth writes). However, some society chiefs claim that rules introduced by the Treasury to fight money laundering make access to accounts harder for poor people. Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday urged societies to make their products more suitable for the three million people without a bank or building society account, and to help in creation of credit unions. The Building Societies Association welcomed her call. However, although happy to help credit unions, some chiefs privately said that new rules to prevent laundering of drug profits in accounts would hit the poor, who were less likely to have a passport or a driving licence to prove identity as required to open an account.

Japan seeks million jobs from new spending plan

JAPAN hopes to create a million new jobs with its latest spending package to boost the ailing economy, according to an outline published yesterday (Robert Whyman writes).

A plan unveiled by Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party calls for more than ¥10 trillion (£49 billion) in public works spending, home-buying incentives and tax cuts to spur domestic demand and pull the

country out of its prolonged slump.

The emergency stimulus package, which the Government is expected to endorse formally next Monday, includes ¥4 trillion of income tax cuts and a lowering of the corporate tax rate, one of the highest among the big economies, to 40 per cent from next year.

The ruling party also called for at least ¥4 trillion in public works spending, to be concentrating on information technology, the environment and education and welfare programmes. Instead of the construction projects that are the usual focus of the Government.

The package, which is the seventh since 1992, follows a pledge by Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister, to revive the economy within two years.

IN BUSINESS WITH TOMORROW
Do I need it?
MARTIN WALLER
test drives the ultimate in office chairs — at £900



Start-up costs hit News Corp

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

PROFITS of The News Corporation, the international media group, fell 18 per cent in the three months to September 30.

The \$196 million profit (£119 million) before abnormal items compared with \$243 million in the same period last year. The fall was mainly caused by increased start-up costs in ventures such as satellite television in Latin America and cable joint ventures in the US.

Operating revenues grew 12 per cent to \$3.2 billion and operating income before depreciation and amortisation was up 10 per cent to \$407 million. Earnings for each ADR before abnormal items was \$0.20 (\$0.26).

News Corp, parent company of The Times, said the results had been driven by several summer film releases such as *There's Something About Mary*, the video release of *Titanic*, and improvements at the publisher HarperCollins.

A reduction in the profits of the newspaper division was caused by temporary cover price cuts and extra promotion for *The Sun*, together with the adverse impact of the weaker Australian dollar on Australian newspaper results. In the UK *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* increased advertising revenues and improved operating income.

This week News Corp announced the sale of 18.6 per cent of Fox Entertainment Group in an initial public offering for \$2.8 billion — the third largest in US history.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Taiwanese company boosts Silicon Glen

UP TO 700 new jobs are to be created in Scotland's Silicon Glen through an investment by a Taiwanese electronics firm. The Universal Scientific Industrial Company announced plans for a £15 million plant in Irvine, Strathclyde, to become its European manufacturing base. The company, which makes electronic and computer components, said the workforce would build up to 700 over two to three years, on a 27-acre site in Irvine.

Universal cited the number of electronics companies already in Scotland, the availability and quality of the Scottish workforce, and air links developed by Prestwick Airport, as factors that made it choose Scotland after a 15-month search for a European base. The project was won for Scotland against fierce competition from the Republic of Ireland, in a concerted effort by Locate in Scotland, the Invest in Britain Bureau, Enterprise Ayrshire and North Ayrshire Council.

Bemrose plunges

SHARES of Bemrose Corporation fell 80p to 277½p yesterday after the company said that annual pre-tax profits would fall 10 per cent against the underlying figure reported last year. Roger Booth, chairman, said that sales of its seasonal calendars and diaries in both Britain and America had not reached expected levels. He said the shortfall was unlikely to be recovered this year. Jeffrey Meyer, president of Bemrose USA, has resigned from the company and the board.

Fairness at Work call

A SENIOR union leader yesterday urged the Government not to water down union recognition plans in its Fairness at Work White Paper. Unions fear a provision might be added requiring workers to be in a union for three to six months before they can be included. Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "People have the right to vote on industrial action from day one, so why shouldn't they vote for union recognition?"

Russian banks to close

HALF of Russia's commercial banks will have to be closed because the Government does not have the money to bail them out, Andrei Kozlov, Deputy Chairman of the Russian central bank said yesterday. Viktor Gerashchenko, Chairman of the bank, said that the bank failures would be announced altogether at the end of November. Russia's banks become vulnerable from Monday, when a government-imposed 90-day moratorium on repaying loans taken out with Western banks expires.

SkyePharma chief

SKYEPHARMA has promoted Michael Ashton to the post of chief executive, taking on part of the responsibilities of Ian Gowrie-Smith, who remains executive chairman of the drug development company. Mr Ashton, who was previously chief operating officer, is a former chief executive of a division of Faulding, the Australian pharmaceutical group. Rick Stewart, the corporate development director, is to leave the company to take up another senior position.

Young's profit up 27%

SHARES in Young's, the London brewer and pub operator, jumped 37½p higher to 627½p yesterday as the group unveiled a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.4 million in the half-year to September 26, from turnover up 4 per cent to £41.4 million. Adjusted earnings per share reached 16.51p (15.62p) and the interim dividend is 8.2p (7.75p). Young's acquired four managed houses during the period, taking its total pub estate to 181.

Oxford profits slide

OXFORD Instruments, the advanced instrumentation company, yesterday reported profits down 30 per cent to £5.1 million for the six months to September 30. The company said shipment problems and the strength of sterling contributed to the reduced results. Turnover was £78.7 million, down from £81.4 million. Earnings per share were 7.0p (10.0p) and the company declared a dividend of 2.4p (2.3p). Oxford Instruments also revealed it is to repurchase 5 per cent of its issued equity.

Introducing the country boy with city manners. Chevy Blazer 4x4.

Premiere in Birmingham: The Chevy Blazer 4x4. Now available in the UK. In Right Hand Drive, of course! This vehicle is as much at ease on the road as it is at "Home on the Range". Because the Blazer is the only 4x4 to offer the unique Driver Control System (DCS) which effectively gives refined high-way manners to a rugged and dependable off-road vehicle. This Chevrolet system intelligently transfers power between the front and rear wheels whenever rear-wheel slippage is detected. The result is a perfect balance of quiet ride and precise handling. And its impressive 4.3 litre-Vortec V6 with 142 kW/ 193 bhp optimizes fuel while providing real go-ahead go-anywhere power.

The Chevy Blazer offers you authentic American off-road capability and category-leading on-road drivability. Enjoy all the benefits of a 4x4 — without the discomfort. In the new RHD Chevy Blazer 4x4.

Please see us at the Birmingham Motorshow Hall 1, Stand 124. You'll be truly impressed.

CHEVROLET

هكذا من الأصل

NOW YOU CAN SEE

www.a

Bilton looking like fair game



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Are there any takers for a shooting estate in Berkshire or choice salmon fishing rights in Deeside? The likelihood is that, by next week, one of those country gentlemen-type estate agents will have been appointed to find buyers for the pair. Sir Nigel Mobbs, although not opposed to country pursuits, does not believe that such sporting assets sit happily in a property portfolio based on industrial estates.

That Bilton should have taken a different view has been a subject for intense scrutiny as Sir Nigel's Slough Estates has waged its hostile campaign to win control of Bilton. Today the likelihood is that Slough will find itself the new owner of the shooting and fishing assets and it will not risk having them on its books any longer than necessary.

Bilton's managing director, Ron Groom, had hoped to encourage a white knight to ride into the battle, preferably, presumably, one who shared his enthusiasm for a spot of field sports. But the likelihood of rescue must have vanished on Monday, when Schroders pledged its near-17 per cent stake to Slough. The descendants of the company's founder, Percy Bilton, still appear split over the bid, but the family holding, although a substantial 35 per cent, is unlikely to prove crucial. The other shareholders, offered 310p for shares that have been as low as 186p this

year, seem to have recognised the attractions of Sir Nigel's £276 million offer.

At a discount of about 4.7 per cent to net asset value, it is not overly generous, but why should it be? It is the only bid on the table and is significantly higher than the shares had been before the Slough offer. Which must pose a problem for the trustees of the Percy Bilton charity, which holds a stake of more than 5 per cent in the business. Trustees of those funds that held shares in Savoy Group wrestled with their consciences for years and still came to the questionable conclusion that Lord Forte's money was not something they could accept.

The trustees of the Bilton Settlement have been taking advice on whether their duty to beneficiaries may have found it difficult to hear the advice completely impartially.

Some members of the Bilton family had become unhappy with the way in which Mr Groom and Donald Bilton, the founder's eldest son, combined sitting on the board of the company with being directors of a trust

that held shares in it. They had taken the issue to court, pitching sibling against sibling. That was the signal that persuaded the wily Sir Nigel that the time was right to launch his bid. He had been watching and waiting for years. Should his timing have proved perfect, some members of the family, maybe those who are not fans of blood sports, will have no wish for their money to be tied up in a minority holding.

Duty-free headaches

Her Majesty's Customs and Excise officers are becoming increasingly agitated about what they are supposed to be doing next summer. They know duty-free sales should be no more, but they do not know what sort of regime they are supposed to be policing in its stead. The Treasury, too, is said to be scratching its head over the issue.

Yet the problem is not new. Brussels decided seven years ago that duty-free was a concept that did not fit with the big idea of a harmonised tax regime for Europe. Neither does it, but the harmonised tax regime does not exist.

Nonetheless, the date for the abolition of duty-free is there, and fast approaching. All that is missing is the little matter of a sensible plan for what will replace it. Britain has not yet given its agreement to the most recent Brussels proposals, which could amount to cross-Channel ferry operators having to change the prices they charge more than 20 times in a single day.

There are growing suggestions that the EU may have to opt for a further delay in implementing the end of the duty-free regime, just to allow time for some sensible arrangement to be put in place. This might not meet too much opposition from some member states. Before he became German Chancellor, Ger-

hard Schroder had voiced his concerns over a move that would cost jobs, and governments in France and Britain would not shun the opportunity to postpone the job losses that would, inevitably, result from the end of the duty-free traffic.

In total, around 140,000 jobs in Europe are said to be directly linked to the £4.5 billion annual duty-free trade.

The ferry operator P&O has spelled out that, if the regime suggested by Brussels comes into play, and it is allowed to sell duty-paid goods at the rate that it has paid for them, it will prefer to shop in France rather than England.

This is no small matter. Every night 100-ton deliveries are made to the ferries in the UK. That would stop if there was clear commercial advantage to be had by loading up on France instead. There is a certain irony here, in that the ferry operators, P&O among them, are currently doing

all they can to encourage UK shoppers to head to France to stock up on their shopping. The supermarkets might have little sympathy for the ferry companies in their desire to hold on to their own trade. But Gordon Brown is likely to see some merit in their arguments.

Rekindling an old flame

When Sir Denys Henderson demerged ICI into a chemicals business and a pharmaceuticals firm by the name of Zeneca, he could not have imagined the twist in the tail that emerged yesterday. Now a flourishing Zeneca is to sell some chemicals businesses and ICI would dearly love to buy them back. The problem is it is just a little strapped for cash.

Strategies evolve, as do companies. The demerger was a fine step in realising shareholder value at the time, and those who have stayed with Zeneca shares have reaped the benefits of the fashion for pharmaceutical companies. But ICI has been a less happy story. New boss, Charles Miller Smith, has determinedly

set about streamlining ICI into a fancy specialty chemicals company, ditching the bulk businesses on which it was founded. At the time of the demerger, some chemicals were so special that Sir Denys regarded them as closer to pharmaceuticals, but Sir David Barnes sees things differently.

They may not have fitted into old ICI, but they do fit with new ICI and Mr Miller Smith will be keen to buy them back, with the benefit of the grooming that Sir David has given them as he, too, has streamlined the Zeneca portfolio. It is to be hoped that the costs will not be an insurmountable obstacle in allowing this restructuring to proceed. If it does, could it signal a bout of remarriages? How long before Selfridges decides that Miss Selfridge should be with it rather than with Sears?

Unsteady surfer

IT WAS a brave move by the Governor of the Bank of England to venture on to the Net yesterday and answer questions from his public. There could have been no doubt that someone would want to tax him over his views on unemployment in the North East, and so they did. He responded with all the reasonableness that has earned him the nickname he now says he is proud to bear. But Steady Eddie is unlikely to prove a regular hit among the Web's chat sites unless he livens up the repartee.

Glaxo is attacked on R&D

GLAXO WELLCOME'S strategy to contract out a large part of its research and development effort is a "recipe for disaster", a London pharmaceutical conference was told yesterday (Paul Durman writes).

Peter Ringrose, president of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute, said: "To be a viable productive group, you cannot afford to have 50 per cent of your R&D outsourced. You've got to have the critical components of R&D in-house."

Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo Wellcome's chairman, believes that drug groups must turn to specialists to keep abreast of advances in science, but Glaxo denied that he had set the 50 per cent target that Dr Ringrose mentioned.

Mike Standing, head of life sciences consulting at Cap Gemini, told the *Economist* conference that European drug companies need to be more consumer-focused.

Coral offers lift Ladbroke hopes of painless sale

By Dominic Walsh

CORAL, the betting shop chain that Ladbroke is being forced to sell off by the Government, is understood to have attracted indicative offers ranging from £350 million to £400 million.

Ladbroke, which has received at least ten offers, is expected to spend the weekend whittling them down to a shortlist. Analysts believe that the main contenders are the Tote, UK venture capital funds and, possibly, Stanley Leisure.

The group acquired Coral from Bass in January for £363 million, but in September Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, blocked the deal. One analyst said: "Theories that

Ladbroke would lose out in a fire sale look wide of the mark. It could get its money back."

Ladbroke is not commenting on the process, although its betting arm was the star of yesterday's third-quarter trading update. The World Cup provided a £6 million boost, with Coral taking around £1.5 million.

The news was less good on Easy Play, the football game launched by Vernons in August through Camelot's National Lottery terminals. Sales are averaging just £800,000 a week against initial forecasts of up to £3 million, and Ladbroke has decided to write off the £9 million launch costs

this year rather than over the normal three years.

Its Hilton hotels arm increased profits, despite further softening in Asia. In the UK, cutbacks by the big financial houses have started to affect expense account business at its big London hotels. Revenue per available room has slowed from 11 per cent at the half year to about 6 per cent.

The group confirmed that it has been awarded a contract to operate the Great Western Royal Hotel at London's Paddington Station. It will reopen in 2000 as the GWR Hilton Paddington.

Tempus, page 30

GRE to revamp life fund

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange received a mixed response from the City after it issued a veiled profits warning while also announcing a revamp of its life fund (Marianne Curphey writes).

Though the shares rose 8½p to 291½p SBC Warburg Dillon Reed downgraded its 1998 pre-tax profit forecast from £85 million to £65 million, compared with the £181 million earned in 1997.

GRE is restructuring its life and health businesses in the UK with a £300 million capital injection into its subsidiary, PPP lifetime care. GRE hopes the move will serve to enhance competitiveness.

The insurer is relaunching its UK life assurance operation as a 100 per cent shareholder-owned activity. GRE's old life fund will be closed to new business.

Danka review must be done by next month

By Chris Ayres

DANKA Business Systems, the troubled photocopier group that recently lost both its chairman and chief executive, yesterday revealed that its debts had reached \$1 billion (£600 million) during the six months to September 30.

The company, which obtained a waiver from its lenders until February to tackle a deepening financial crisis, said it had until the end of the month to draw up a new business plan. Over the past two years, Danka's share price has collapsed from a high of 848p to just 63p yesterday.

The new business plan will have to be approved by the company's lenders — a syndicate of about 30 US banks — before it can receive an emergency \$35 million loan. Danka has already received \$40 mil-

lion in loans since the waiver was granted.

Larry Switzer, the temporary chief executive, said: "In conjunction with Wasserstein Perella [the US investment bank], the group is undertaking a detailed review of its operations and business plan, including evaluating certain restructuring opportunities. We continue to face significant challenges."

Danka reported losses of £1.8 million in the six months to September 30, compared with a profit of £43 million. Sales fell 10 per cent from £1 billion to £907 million. The loss per share was 0.6p, compared with earnings of 13.5p.

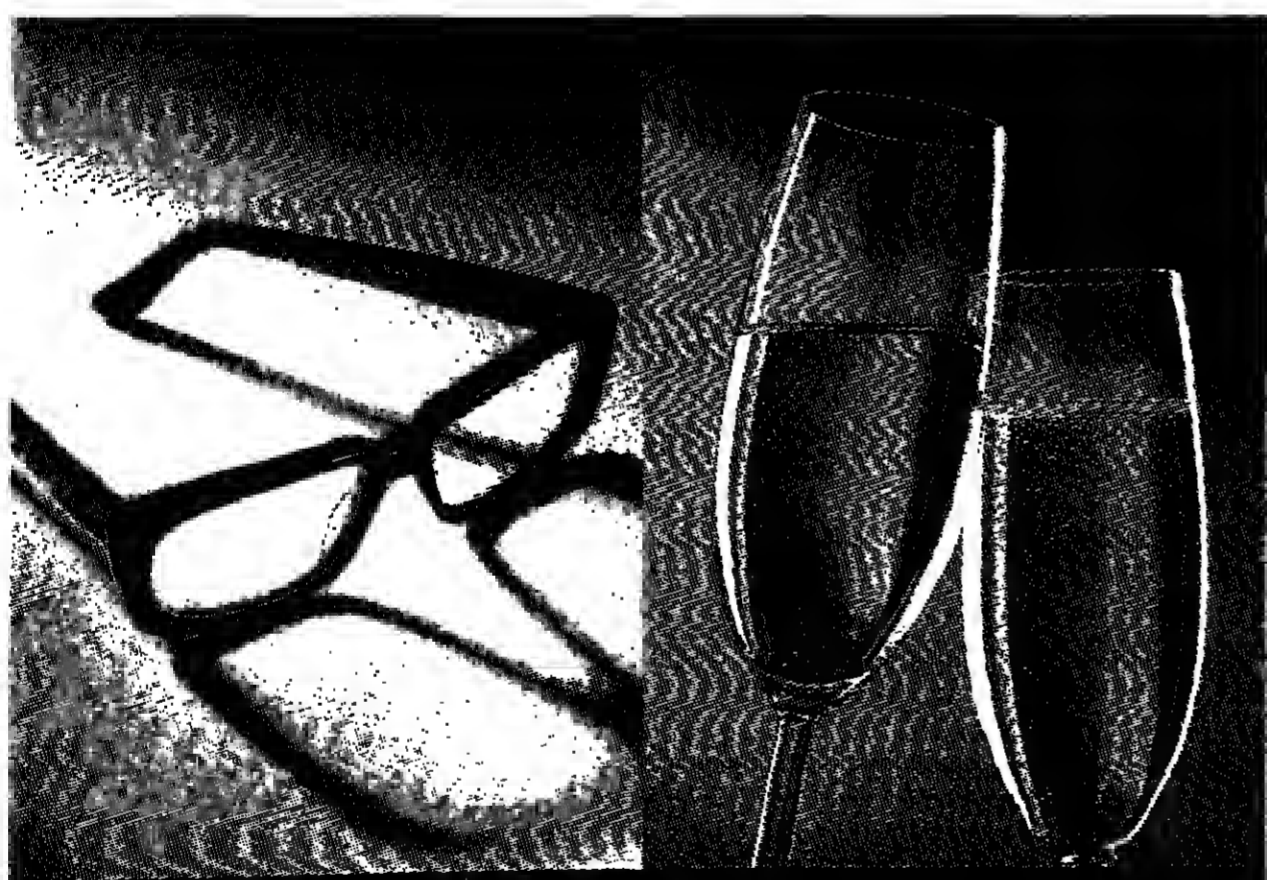
Danka blamed the fall in revenues on "a decrease in retail service, supply, and rental sales".

RIT trust suffers setback

RIT Capital Partners, the investment trust chaired by Lord Rothschild, has seen its half-year returns devastated by last summer's market turbulence (Gavin Lusenden writes). Assets fell by £54 million to £756 million in the six months to the September 30, compared with the £86 million growth it achieved for the same period last year.

A takeover bid in July for Fonorola, RIT's largest investment, spared the trust from worse figures. RIT gained a total of £100 million for the Canadian telecoms company.

Since the end of March, the company has reduced its equity exposure from 75 per cent to just 52 per cent. About a quarter of its portfolio is now in US treasuries and other government bonds with a further £36 million in cash. However, it retains 12 per cent in unquoted companies and 8 per cent in specialist funds. Commentary, this page



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POWERGEN PLC HALF-YEAR RESULTS

Commenting on the results, Chairman, Ed Wallis, said: "PowerGen has delivered a solid financial performance with earnings per share (before windfall tax, exceptionals and goodwill amortisation) and dividends both showing 11 per cent growth. This year has seen the repositioning of PowerGen and the company is now poised, as a leading player in UK electricity and gas, ready to compete as markets open up. Overseas, activity has been focused on countries where the vertically integrated electricity and gas model, similar to the UK, is achievable. An entry into the US remains a part of the PowerGen strategy. Clear focus on this approach of delivering UK and international growth will make PowerGen a larger, leading international gas and electricity company able to sustain profit improvement and value creation for shareholders in the long term."

POWERGEN PLC CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT	Unaudited Half year to 27 September 1998	Unaudited Half year to 28 September 1997
	£m	£m
Group turnover	1,267	1,185
Group operating profit, including associates	218	187
Net interest payable, including associates	(62)	(33)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	156	154
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(36)	(38)
Windfall tax	-	(196)
Profit/(Loss) on ordinary activities after taxation	120	(80)
Dividends	(65)	(59)
Retained Profit/(Loss) for the period	55	(139)
Earnings/(Loss) per ordinary share	18.6p	(12.5)p
Earnings per ordinary share (excluding windfall tax and goodwill amortisation)	20.1p	18.1p
Dividends per ordinary share	10.0p	9.0p

Note: FRS 9 "Associates and Joint Ventures" has led to changes in presentation of both operating profit and interest costs; comparatives have been restated. The acquisition of East Midlands Electricity has resulted in a £10 million amortisation of goodwill charge against operating profits in 1998 due to the adoption of FRS 10 "Goodwill and Intangible Assets". The PowerGen 1998 Interim Dividend of 10.0p per share will be paid on 8 December 1998. The Scrip Dividend Plan will NOT apply to this Interim Dividend, and residual entitlements under the Plan will be paid to shareholders with their Interim Dividend. Key dates are as follows:

KEY DATES:	
23 November 1998	PowerGen Shares begin to trade "ex dividend".
26 November 1998	Shareholders on the register at close of business qualify for the 1998 Interim Dividend.
8 December 1998	Interim Dividend paid.

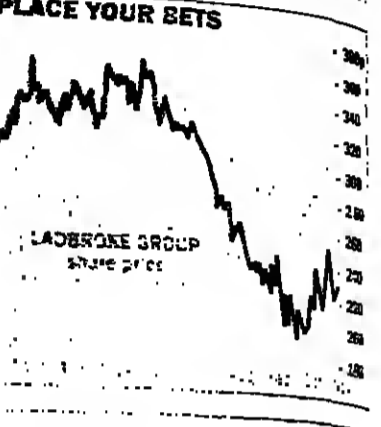


The full results may be seen on the PowerGeo Internet web site at www.pgen.com

call

...of commission that BT will face on... Through it all the... is all about... results were... The AT&T firm... to restore regulatory... New management... effect on subscribers... BT to become a 100 per... telephone company... in the short price... significant growth could... network upgrade... really is calling on...

and Kenya are all struggling... continental Europe and the... Americas are doing well... Samat Ellis at Oxford... Kenworth Benson is forecast... earnings per share of... rising to 16.5p in 1999... stripping out costs. The... shares on a forward... multiple of just 12. If any... is short lived. Laddams... well-placed to emerge strongly...



...weeks that... after... down the... and the... for... and I hope...

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Unfinished business for PFI task force

The Government's predilection for task forces has frequently been met with cries of derision by business. For industry figures — well, at least those unfortunate few who have not received an invitation to join any of the 50-odd committees — task forces represent all the worst sins of Government. They imply prevarication over firm decision-making, paper shuffling over committed action.

So it comes as some surprise to find that business is leading a campaign to re-prieve at least one of these task forces from its scheduled closure next summer. The Confederation of British Industry is appealing to the Treasury to extend the life of the Private Finance Initiative task force. The CBI has few doubts that the task force has made a huge difference to the prickly problems of the PFI.

For Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General who is ultimately responsible for the PFI, this demand is something of a mixed blessing. The fact that business feels that at least one task force is actually doing the job it was entrusted with is certainly flattering. However, if the PFI task force had been completely successful, the Treasury would be able to announce its dissolution with great fanfare. Mr Robinson has, in classic Government fashion, passed on the problem for the moment and invited Sir Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Group, to conduct a second review.

There is little doubt that, rather like Mr Robinson himself, the PFI is now becoming an established part of the Treasury landscape after a rather bumpy start. The early PFI projects met with profound public and private sector cynicism. The private sector found the process cumbersome and costly, with apparently limited financial gains in the longer term. The public sector lacked the requisite commercial skills to bring projects to completion and, in many cases, remained culturally at odds with the whole concept.

The task force, which has attempted to streamline the bidding process as well as target priority projects, has helped to make PFI deals viable. The Government has signed a respectable £4 billion worth of deals during the past 18 months. It is hoping gently to accelerate this pace of activity to meet the £11 billion target figure outlined by Gordon Brown in last week's pre-Budget report. Yet the PFI could be set to play an even more pivotal role in the next few years. The Chancellor has made great play of his plans to increase spending on public infrastructure while keeping a tight rein on the overall budgetary position. This has left the Treasury with little room to manoeuvre, and the Government may be forced to turn increasingly to the PFI as a means of reconciling its commitments with the sharp economic slowdown expected by all but the Bank and the Treasury.



ALASDAIR MURRAY

The Government is especially keen to introduce the PFI more widely into the local authority sector, viewing PFI projects as a potential solution to the under-funding of Britain's crumbling state housing infrastructure. This kind of rollout plan is likely only to exaggerate the impact of the remaining problems with the PFI. The CBI is not yet convinced that all the Civil Services are equipped to handle complex PFI projects and wants to see the task force continue in its role as a resource centre until every department is up to scratch. Ensuring that the hundreds of local authorities acquire the necessary skills is likely to prove an even more time-consuming project. The rather uneasy relationship with public sector unions involved in PFI projects could be brought to a head by the expansion into the local authority sector. The Treasury appears to have headed off the immediate problem by its announcement last month that unions will be consulted during the PFI bidding procedure, although they will have no right of veto.

The transatlantic banana split that risks a world trade war

Carl Mortished reports on the unlikely source of a looming global crisis over exports



A banana cutter on one of Chiquita's plantations in Costa Rica. Chiquita has lobbied against the EU's trade regime

The price of bananas is going up. Hurricane Mitch has cut a swath through the vast Central American plantations operated by US fruit multinationals. The cyclone has ripped out plants and damaged infrastructure. Some 70 per cent of Honduras' agriculture has been wiped out. It will take years to restore production to normal levels and the shortfall should lead to hefty price increases.

Weather and markets are uncontrollable and farmers must live with the consequences. But bananas are becoming expensive in more insidious ways. Far from the wreckage in the Honduran jungle, people in plush offices in Washington, Brussels and Geneva are plotting a trade war.

The battle is over European restrictions on the import of Latin American bananas, so-called "dollar bananas". Europe operates a preferential regime for bananas produced in African and Caribbean countries, mainly former colonies of Britain and France. Latin American producers and the US fruit combines, Dole and Chiquita Brands, have cried foul. This week the US Government produced a shopping list of European exports, ranging from tweed jackets to French wine which would be hampered with 100 per cent tariffs if the EU failed to reform its banana regime.

Indignant cries from the respective US and EU trade litigators, Charlene Barshefsky and Sir Leon Brittan are now becoming entrenched and officials in the World Trade Organisation in Geneva worry that trade doors may slam shut as the world teeters on the edge of recession.

Alarmist? After all, bananas are of marginal interest to most people. True, farmers in producing countries depend on them for a living; for many Caribbean countries, preferential access to EU markets is critical as small island producers cannot hope to compete on cost with the vast Central American plantations. In the West Indies the prospect of a flood of Chiquita or Dole produce is terrifying.

But why should Washington bang the free trade drum over bananas when the US is not an exporter? The fruit multinationals could provide one answer. Chiquita Brands already supplies bananas in huge quantities to Germany and Sweden where consumers prefer the long thin dollar banana to the shorter, fatter, sweeter Caribbean variety.

Chiquita has lobbied for action against Europe. Carl Lindner, its president, made a large contribution to the Democratic Party, a fact frequently alluded to by EU officials. The company is no stranger to controversy. Chiquita's regulatory filings reveal that it was notified in April that it was being investigated by the US Securities & Exchange Commission over compliance with the Foreign and Corrupt Practices Act. In particular regarding illegal payments to foreign officials and the keeping of fair and accurate books. The company was told by the SEC that its investigation should not be construed that a violation occurred.

Since then, Chiquita has been paid \$10 million (\$6 million) in compensation by The Cincinnati Enquirer, for an article alleging that Chiquita was involved in dubious business practices in Central America including bribery and the use of life-threatening pesticides. The journalist pleaded guilty to charges of theft of voicemail and the paper published a full retraction. Whatever the power and influence of Dole and Chiquita, the US would hardly risk a trade war with Europe, just over bananas. Brussels says the shopping list of European exports threatened with sanctions amounts to \$1 billion. Jacques Santer, EU Commission President, has written to President Bill Clinton, warning him not to make "a grave political misjudgment" and threatening to start proceedings at the WTO if the threat of tariffs is not lifted.

It is not just bananas that are at issue. Washington is angry because it believes that the WTO is toothless and Europe is failing to follow the rule book. The US has already won two legal battles with Europe in the WTO without obtaining a remedy. Washington trade negotiators are waving judgments in the air and demanding redress. Potential trade disputes are spreading like dry rot in the framework of world trade and Washington wants a system that does not just arbitrate but one that enforces. A year ago a WTO appellate body ruled that the EU's banana quotas and licensing regime were inconsistent with WTO rules and this year the US won an important victory against the Brussels ban on US beef hormones. Both cases allowed the EU 15 months to comply — in the case of bananas this runs out in January.

However, Washington believes the reformed EU regime — increased quotas and changes to licensing — also fails to comply. The US side requested an expedited review of the new regime with the same panelists that ruled last time. Brussels refused saying that any US objection must begin again from scratch — a process that could take over a year. WTO insiders note that no trade dispute has yet gone this far with one side threatening unilateral retaliation and the other refusing to use WTO settlement procedures.

Also telling is the failure by both sides to allow WTO procedures to follow their natural course. A settlement system does exist. Were the EU to allow the panelists to rule on the reformed banana regime, the banana war is a test case of Europe and America's commitment to the settlement procedures they created. Pressure is mounting on the Clinton Administration to do something about dumping of Asian steel and semiconductors.

The US criticises Europe for not opening its doors wide enough to help embattled Asian countries trade their way back to solvency. Brussels says Europe is importing more Asian steel than the US. These are the real battles to come. If Brussels and Washington cannot agree on bananas, heaven help us.

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City limits

TODAY Buckingham Palace will give more details of the visit by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to the City on Wednesday. I notice, however, an odd quirk in the proposed itinerary. It is either a reflection of how widely the financial community has spread or some peculiar royal fondness for sitting in traffic jams, because only half her destinations are actually in the City.

Merrill Lynch is just outside the boundary. The Financial Services Authority is in Canary Wharf. Electra is in Kingsway and the Financial



er and the Financial Services Authority. All, one would have thought, with plenty of secrets to keep to themselves.



"It frightens me, some of the material children can access on their computers"

INDUSTRIAL espionage at Canary Wharf? The Telegraph has banned distribution of the new weekly tabloid. The Wharf, because it is produced by its neighbour, the Mirror Group. Delivering the freesheet, says Dan Coulson, the Telegraph's chief executive, allows the Mirror folk the opportunity to ferret out the paper's secrets. "Security is a concern. We're not happy about the prospect of people coming in from outside on a regular basis."

For some reason his concerns are not shared by Canary Wharf's other residents, which include CSFB, Ogilvy & Mather

Well red

FORGET Harvard, France's Insead or the London Business School, the place for the business leaders of tomorrow to study for their MBAs will be Hanoi. (Which I will always associate with Jane Fonda, but that's my age, I suppose).

There is a delegation from the National Economics University in Hanoi over at Durham University Business School gaining tips on how to design an MBA course. According to Vu Thanh Hung, the head of the management department, they want to attract students from all over

Sweet talk

IT IS generally agreed that it would be better to have a businessman as the new Mayor of London than some awful political placeman. Or, for different reasons, Jeffrey Archer or Ken



Alan Sugar needs spurring on to be mayor of London

Web of policy queries fails to entangle Eddie

For "Steady Eddie" it was a chance to prove that, despite all the recent criticism, he is still the people's central banker. Eddie George yesterday opted to become the first Governor of the Bank of England to submit himself to trial by Internet, going live online to answer questions from small businessmen and women from across the country.

The question and answer session, which took place on the Department of Trade and Industry's small business website, was billed as a chance to quiz Mr George about the single currency. However, the participants could not resist grilling the Governor over interest rates, the pound, and his apparent gaffe over unemployment in the North East being a necessary price for curbing inflation in the South. Mr George insisted that the point he was making about unemployment was that monetary policy could not be used to "address different levels of unemployment".



Eddie George meets the people in cyberspace

Oh, and Mr George, who is described as an "infrequent" Internet user, admitted that he takes the "Steady Eddie" nickname as a compliment. ALASDAIR MURRAY

Mortgages

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following interest rates for mortgages provided by Banking Direct, a Division of Bank of Scotland, will apply with effect from 1st November 1998 for both new and existing borrowers.

- Banking Direct Mortgage Rate (Variable) 8.69% per annum.
- Centrebank Mortgage Rate (Variable) 8.69% per annum.
- Stabilised Charging Rate 8.99% per annum.
- Adaptable Mortgage Plan Charging Rate 8.85% per annum.
- Banking Direct Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable) 9.19% per annum.
- Centrebank Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable) 9.19% per annum.
- Home Loan Rate 8.69% per annum.

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BANKING DIRECT, EDINBURGH EH12 9DR

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Resilient performance by equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

Main table of equity prices with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E Ratio. Includes sub-sections for SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and BRITISH FUNDS.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

كندا من الأصل



Heritage acquired by Masco

America's Masco is taking over Heritage Bathrooms for £40.5 million. Masco's offer of 220p a share has already secured acceptances in respect of 50.15 per cent of the UK company. The terms represent a 44.3 per cent premium to the price at which the shares traded before bid talks were made public earlier this month. In its last financial year Heritage earned pre-tax profits of £4.78 million on sales of £22 million.

Pillar plan

Pillar Property, the property investment and development group, has joined London Transport to submit a planning proposal for the £65 million redevelopment of the site surrounding Fulham Broadway Underground station. The proposal includes shops, a supermarket, restaurants, a 12-screen cinema complex and a health club.

Dennis wins orders

Dennis, the vehicle manufacturer acquired by Mayflower Corporation earlier this month, has won orders for new buses worth £40 million from New World First Bus, of Hong Kong. It was also announced that Steve Burton has resigned as chief executive. Brendan Geary, finance director, will leave the company in February, when the head office is due to close.

Po Na Na ahead

Po Na Na Group, which runs a chain of bars, yesterday announced pre-tax profit of £70,356, for the six months to September 27, compared with £36,504 last time. Earnings per share were 3.11p (1.47p). The company began the year with 15 bars, spread across the country, and plans to have 24 bars by the end of the year.

Naafi dividend up

Naafi, the Navy, Army, Air Force Institutes, yesterday announced a profit of £7.9 million for the year ending May 2, up from £5.2 million last time. Owned mutually by Armed Forces personnel and providing retail and leisure facilities, it returned an increased dividend of £2.9 million (£2.5 million).

Acquisitive Bank of Ireland to splash out

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Bank of Ireland, which owns the Bristol & West, plans to spend up to £700 million on buying another UK bank or building society.

The bank's announcement came as it revealed that interim pre-tax profits before exceptional items had risen by 34 per cent from 1r£250 million (£227 million) to 1r£334 million (£307 million). Exceptional items boosted the profits to 1r£507 million. These included the 1r£172.4 million from the sale of the group's 23.5 per cent shareholding in the Citizens Financial Group.

Paul D'Alton, the group's financial officer, said that the bank had managed to increase its profits over the six-month period, in contrast to some of the other banks, because it was not exposed to emerging markets, nor did it have any exposure to hedge funds.

Mr D'Alton said: "We operate a low-risk business." He added that the bank was not

interested in buying a life insurance company, but is instead keeping an eye on the UK building society sector. He added: "We are not in any hurry to make a purchase."

The West Bromwich, Portman and Cheshire are within the price range of the Bank of Ireland. However, all three societies claim that they are keen to remain mutual.

Mr D'Alton said that the group was particularly pleased with the results generated by the Bristol & West, which was bought by the Bank of Ireland last year. The Bristol & West contributed £76.5 million to total profits. He said that the former building society's share of new lending had increased in spite of increased competition in the lending market.

The group pointed out that it has spent a total of £28.7 million on the Year 2000 project and the single currency. The bank is paying an interim dividend of 9.2p.



Mark Newman, left, with Keith Atkinson, Lonrho Africa's finance director, yesterday

Lonrho Africa resists coup

BOARD members of Lonrho Africa have hit back at the attempts by Blakeney, the asset management group, to oust the Africa specialist's chairman, Bernard Asher, and two other non-executive directors, Stephen Walls and Michael Wilson (Jason Nissé writes).

Blakeney yesterday posted a letter to shareholders calling for an extraordinary general meeting to replace the three

directors with three of its own appointees.

A compromise deal was rejected by Lonrho Africa because it would have created an executive committee, half of whose members would have been Blakeney nominees. Lonrho Africa said this would have been a back door.

Mark Newman, Lonrho Africa's chief executive, said

yesterday that the company had rejected Blakeney's plans because "the existing board has the right strategy and the right directors for the future of Lonrho Africa".

He added that links between Blakeney's nominees and two other groups operating in the continent — Africa Lakes and Africa Plantations — meant they had a conflict of interest with Lonrho Africa.

Telewest sales rise under new chief

TELEWEST, the cable television giant that recently hired Tony Illsley, the former Walkers Crisps supremo, as its chief executive, yesterday revealed a small fall in year-on-year third-quarter losses from £91 million to £85 million (Chris Ayres writes).

The group, which recently merged with General Cable and increased its stake in Birmingham Cable to 72 per cent, saw a 38 per cent rise in sales from £100 million to £138 million. Losses per share fell from 0.09p to 0.05p. Debt at the end of the quarter was £2 billion.

Telewest saw cable television customers increase by 16 per cent during the quarter to 675,000, with average monthly spend per customer falling slightly to £23. Residential telephone customers, meanwhile, rose 15 per cent to 876,000, with average monthly spend per line again falling slightly to £19.

Mr Illsley said: "We believe our combination of local access, national network and broadband capacity positions us well to meet the rapidly growing demand for business services, especially the higher-margin products."

Asset management boosts ED&F Man

A STRONG performance by the asset management business of ED&F Man, the commodities and financial services group, offset a collapse in profits at its commodity trading arm (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Underlying pre-tax profit in the six months to September rose by 39 per cent from £39.7 per cent to £55.3 million. Earnings per share rose from 10.4p to 15.4p and the company is paying an interim dividend of 4p.

Collapsing demand in the Far East and Russian markets led to a pre-tax

loss in sugar of £3.6 million compared with profits of £7.2 million last year. Molasses and alcohol made a pre-tax loss of £3.6 million compared with a £3 million profit. Cocoa, coffee and edible nuts increased profits from £6.6 million to £7.9 million.

By contrast Man Investment Products made a profit of £45.2 million, up from £15 million. The strong level of fund performance generated substantial performance-related fee income.

Times, page 30

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Warning issued by Haden MacLellan

SHARES of Haden MacLellan fell 22½p to 59½p yesterday after the engineering company gave warning of the adverse impact of a marked slowdown in the automotive industry. The company said that although it had made a promising start to the second half, the fourth quarter had "shown a rapid deterioration across most geographical markets, particularly in the automotive sector".

The market slowdown had led to delays in contracts for Haden MacLellan's process engineering division. It also had an impact on the group's fasteners and industrial services businesses in the UK. As a result, second-half profits were unlikely to match those of the first half, the company said yesterday. In September the group had reported pre-tax profits before exceptional items of £7 million in the six months to June 30. Yesterday's warning also affected other auto-component manufacturers. Shares in GKN fell back 31p to close at 65½p, TI Group dropped 17p to 33½p and LucasVarity weakened 11½p to 190½p.

Staveley in demerger

STAVELEY INDUSTRIES is to proceed with plans to demerge its support services division and British Salt, with detailed proposals that are likely to be put to shareholders by July 1999. The company, which has already undergone extensive restructuring, yesterday reported a 37 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.3 million in the six months to September 26. Earnings rose to 4.1p a share from 2.9p. The interim dividend is held at 2.5p a share.

Bandt climbs by 50%

BANDT, a provider of scaffolding and other industrial services, said that a good overall trading performance for the six months to October 4 generated a 50 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £4 million. Turnover was £39.48 million, up from £38.89 million for the corresponding period in the previous year. Earnings per share were 2.6p, compared with 1.8p, and the company declared an interim dividend of 0.5p, up from 0.4p.

Greycoat bidding time

GREYCOAT, the property company, reported first-half pre-tax profits unchanged at £5.6 million, but said it was well placed to take advantage of a growing shortage of prime office space in Central London. The company is a partner in a consortium that acquired the International Financial Centre, formerly the NatWest Tower, for £226 million in August. Greycoat does not pay an interim dividend but said it expects to lift the total dividend to 1.9p a share from 1.5p for the year to March 31.

Lynx leaps ahead

LYNX GROUP, the computer services company, lifted pre-tax profits to £13.25 million from £9.8 million in the year to September 30 on turnover that rose 50 per cent to £180.9 million. Earnings per share rose to 8.67p from 6.83p. A final dividend of 1.7p lifts the total to 2.25p (2p). Stewart Douglas-Mann, who succeeded Roger Pinnington as chairman in August, said the markets in which Lynx operates continue to offer substantial opportunities for growth. The shares fell 1½p to 184p.



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لقد كان الأصل



POP Jewel, the charmer from Alaska PAGE 37

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE Touching social drama in Be My Baby PAGE 38



It's not that I'm superstitious or anything. Friday the Thirteenth? Just another date, mate. OK, I might set off for work an hour or two early, but only as a precaution. Skipping round those cracks in the pavement is very time-consuming, you know - not to say downright embarrassing for a man of advancing years and ever-ballooning torso.

Then there's the problem of the black cats and the ladders. No point in taking chances. Not with Uranus in the ascendant and the tea-leaves inscrutable.

But otherwise it will be business as usual. A quick half-hour flip through the horoscopes, an informal departmental seance and blood-sacrifice, a little light palm-reading - then straight down to work. Just a normal day.

Mind you, I do have a soft spot for that oft-used but little-considered phrase, "don't push your luck". Macbeth, Othello, Don Giovanni and virtually every other doomed protagonist in Western

Fingers crossed, we'll get through today

drama all pushed their luck, and look where it got them. In fact the subject of luck-pushing obsessed the great dramatists and composers. True, some put forward the wildly optimistic view that man can control his own destiny. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, for instance, is generally reckoned to be a brilliant depiction of the human spirit emerging triumphant over a malevolent Fate. That is why the Fifth acquired such significance in the war against Hitler.

Similarly, if in less exalted vein, Sky Masterson challenges luck to "be a lady tonight" in Gypsy and Dolls - and wins the heart of his Salvation Army lass with a single audacious throw of the dice. Just like real life, I don't think.

But the usual view of la forza del destino in great tragedy is much gloomier. Anything that can go

wrong will go wrong. Who dares never wins. The bolder the deed, the nastier the outcome.

It's a bit depressing, but it does ring true. Just think how often a modern hero pushes his luck and ends up ruined. The glamorous British actor, on the verge of superstardom, really does risk everything for a quickie with a Sunset Boulevard tart. The Cabinet minister really does find himself compromised in a park. The extravagantly handsome footballer really does lash out stupidly in front of a billion TV viewers.

You could say it is "bad luck" that these idols get caught in the act. But that view won't cut any ice with most dramatists. Their attitude is that your character defines the sort of mess you get into. When Clint Eastwood says "do you feel lucky, punk?" to the baddie cring-



RICHARD MORRISON

ing before his Magnum 44, you know that luck actually has nothing to do with it. The baddie is facing retribution because his character has serious flaws.

Of course the "fate factor" in plays and especially operas is often

thought hopelessly implausible. Those babies swapped at birth, those mislaid handkerchiefs, those ridiculous masked balls in which a husband allegedly can't recognise his own wife... to many people they seem incredible - contrary to all rational observation.

I take the opposite view. The trouble with most things you see in the theatre is that they are all too rational, because the author usually has a philosophy of life to put across, and is manipulating the plot like crazy to justify his view.

Whereas what's baffling about ordinary life is the way that happenstance - or fate, if you like - kicks us for no reason at all. You haven't slept with your Mum. You haven't stabbed any Scottish kings. You haven't pinched any gold from the Rhine, or run off with Helen of Troy. In short, you've missed out

on all the fun bits of tragedy, and jumped straight to the divine-retribution part. The car has conked out, your toddler has put his foot through the patio door, your molar aches, and you lose your wallet all on the same day. Who's punishing you, and why?

Serious art rarely captures this helplessness - ordinary folk struggling with the bap-hazard micro-disasters of our daily grind. That is because most geniuses are incapable of comprehending mediocrity. Samuel Beckett came close, in a pretentious sort of way. So did John Cage, whose most famous composition - four minutes and 33 seconds of total silence - pitifully defined human existence as a timespan containing absolutely nothing of interest. And, strangely enough, the fly-

on-the-wall "docu-dramas" that are now so ubiquitous on television are useful in this context too. I used to hate them, believing that they turned us all into mocking voyeurs. Now I realise that we love Hotel or Airport or The House not only because we enjoy a laugh at someone else's expense, but because they hold up a mirror to our own impotent rage when the fates buffet us unfairly.

Wouldn't life be sweeter if luck played no part - if people prospered or declined in absolute proportion to their talents and efforts? Don't be daft. It would be unbearable. Imagine reading about some brilliant former classmate who has gone on to do world-class medical research, marry some gorgeous pouting creature, and make a packet from astute investment - and not being able to dismiss him with a lofty "he got a few lucky breaks". Unthinkable. We may feel that fate treats us badly, but boy, it makes a damn good excuse for failure. We all need one of them now and then.

ENO's unkind cuts

Did you know that there was a tradition of rhyming slang in Russia? Nor did I, but this became plain given what Della Jones's feisty Hostess of the Inn was up to while singing her song about a duck. What might have happened if the Tsarevich had been given his song about a parrot beggars the imagination, but he isn't in the ENO's rather peculiar conflation of Mussorgsky's two main versions of the score.

It seems that the original idea was to perform the second, complete with the Polish acts, a good idea since audiences here haven't seen it since the days of the Tarkovsky production at Covent Garden, but the Polish acts involve more singers, dancers and a change of decor, and times is hard. So we get basically the seven-scene original with the Kromy Forest Revolution tacked on at the end, which involves removing the gus - ie, the Simpleton's Lament - from the St

Basil's Cathedral scene to avoid repetition. The Kromy Forest Jesuits don't make a lot of sense without the Polish acts, either. Budgetary constraint is all the rage nowadays, but it is good to be reminded every now and then of the losses involved.

Still, all the ingredients for a really good Boris are here, but they didn't quite cohere into the expected knockout show on Wednesday and it's hard to say why. The good things first. The ENO chorus was on stunning form, and one of the director Francesca Zambello's greatest strengths is her handling of crowds: the fluidity of mass movement had throughout a thrilling epic dimension. And everyone sang the Lloyd-Jones translation with great care, none more so than John Connell's sonorous Pimen, rather vital since his role involves long narrations. The same was true of Robert Tear's all-smiling Shusky, an absolutely chilling performance, most beautifully sung.



OPERA

Time-travelling is also all the rage nowadays. Hildegard Bechtler's set is abstract, austere but helpfully adaptable under Wolfgang Göbbel's lighting. Nicky Gillibrand's costumes range from men in suits to near-traditional peasant garb. Yes, the action is timeless, and there is another Boris in the Kremlin today. There is a television monitor on which the people watch his coronation. The Tsar is wheeled about in a Boris-mobile. There are ten suited heavies with batons who beat people up, regularly. The ending is almost too pat: the Pretender (John Daszak, very good) enters in triumph in the same Boris-mobile with the same heavies. Er, yes.

What of the protagonist?

John Tomlinson - whose Boris is inevitably associated with another flawed ruler, Wotan - is in fine, smooth voice, phrasing the music as expressively as he projects the text. His journey from snazzy, grey-suited executive to cheerless family man to conscience-stricken autocrat in traditional Russian shirt and fur is, at each stage, splendidly vivid but as yet doesn't quite hang together; his spectacular collapse in the Study Scene is in no sense prepared for - it comes as a shock, and it shouldn't. It was here, too, that Paul Daniel, in an otherwise carefully paced performance, pushed ahead a little too fiercely, and Boris's solo became a very externalised interior monologue. The epic dimension so evident in the public scenes went missing.

This could be a production that develops from performance to performance. We'll see.

RODNEY MILNES



A whole less than its parts: despite John Tomlinson's fine, smooth voice, ENO's Boris Godunov failed to gel properly

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POP PROFILE

Indestructible Metallica

ARTS

LIVE GIG

Hats off to Garth Brooks

Tea and sympathy for the devil?

This time last year, when Q magazine decided to tackle the perennial question of exactly who is "the biggest band in the world", few casual observers would have tipped Metallica for a place in the Top Five. But after a mass of statistical data — including CD and concert ticket sales, airplay and other media exposure — was collected and compared, there they were, just ahead of the Rolling Stones and not far behind Oasis, U2 and the inevitable top dogs, the Spice Girls. In Britain the very idea of locating Metallica among such mainstream company seems faintly ridiculous. To the group's fans they are demigods, but among the broad mass of non-initiates there remains a lingering image of long-haired buffoons in scrun-squeezing trousers cranking out an unlovely brand of ubermensch-rock at ear-thrilling volume. "In certain places — England, Germany, Japan — Metallica still have this heavy metal tag," says the band's drummer, Lars Ulrich. "But in America we're just regarded as a rock band alongside R.E.M., U2, Beck, Courtney Love and whoever." Ulrich, who is dressed and groomed casually but neatly, sits cross-legged amid the discreet opulence of a suite in Claridge's, where he and guitarist Kirk Hammett are staying. Unfortunately, Hammett is in the early throes of what is

What's a nice thrash metal monster like Lars Ulrich doing in a posh place like this? David Sinclair finds out

later diagnosed as appendicitis and cannot attend the interview. But Ulrich, who co-founded Metallica with singer and guitarist James Hetfield in San Francisco 17 years ago, has plenty to say.

"The difference between hard rock and most other sorts of music is that for the fans it becomes part of an all-encompassing lifestyle," he says. "But I can't live my life according to what they want from me."

Anyone expecting to be confronted by the flailing, bare-torsoed animal who has bludgeoned his massive Tarna double-bass drum kit on the biggest stages in the world would be disabused of the idea within minutes of meeting Ulrich in person. In real life, the Danish-born musician is clearly a man of wealth and taste, whose lifestyle could not be further removed from that of the stereotypical headbanger. The son of the former tennis pro Torben Ulrich, he has inherited a naturally athletic physique, and at the age of 34

maintains a keen interest in keeping fit. Metallica always stay at the best hotels, and when in London Ulrich usually pays a visit to Christie's auction house in search of paintings to add to his collection of 20th-century art. "The past five years I've calmed down a lot," he says. "Instead of keeping up with everything that's happening in the rock world I'm content just to put on a John Coltrane CD and kick back. Metallica are still fun, but it's no longer a matter of life and death."

Such a sanguine attitude is in sharp contrast to the early days of Metallica, when the group's fervour knew no

bounds. By combining authentic metal thunder with the coolest of punk attitude, they virtually invented the searing heavy rock hybrid known as speed or thrash metal. When I first saw them, at London's Marquee club in 1984, they played with raw, minimalist zeal and at such a speed and volume that the performance verged on caricature: the R-mones of heavy metal.

"We could never draw a line between Iron Maiden, Motörhead, Venom, the Anti-Nowhere League, Discharge and the Sex Pistols to say where it stopped being heavy metal and started becoming punk," Ulrich says. "We were turned on by the energy and attitude of punk, but we were also into the craft of songwriting and playing our instruments well."

Metallica's forthcoming double-album, *Garage Inc.*, is in part a celebration of an even earlier era in the group's development, when their set would routinely incorporate cover versions of their favourite artists' songs. It features every cover version the band has ever released (16 in all), together with 11 hastily assembled new recordings of songs previously committed to disc by other artists. Included are several numbers by Motörhead and Diamond Head (the two key influences on Metallica), along with songs from such varied sources as Budgie, Discharge, Black Sabbath, Killing Joke, Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Anti-Nowhere League, Blue Oyster Cult, Thin Lizzy, Bob Seger, Nick Cave and Queen.

A high percentage of the songs are by English acts, a reflection of Ulrich's and Hetfield's early fascination with the so-called New Wave of British Heavy Metal. This hectic and short-lived scene, which blossomed at the turn of the 1980s, is described by David Fricke in his impressively researched liner notes to *Garage Inc.* as "a fan-driven backlash to the platinum-rock aristocracy and the hokey grandeur of arena-show culture".

But aren't Metallica in 1998 as much a part of the "platinum-rock aristocracy" as any of the bands they once railed against? "I wouldn't deny that or try to talk my way out of it," Ulrich says, somewhat haltingly. "But we've always kept the creative side as pure as we can. We follow our creative instincts wherever they take us, and I feel as if this record definitely marks the end of a chap-



Yes, it is Metallica's Lars Ulrich proving as adept with china as he is with his twin bass drums

ter. The process is due for a shake-up."

Having worked together for 17 years, Ulrich and Hetfield both became fathers for the first time within seven weeks of each other this summer and, while he claims that fatherhood hasn't affected his thinking about the band as yet, Ulrich seems to be in a mood for reassessing his priorities. "The touring thing is becoming more like a chore and

sometimes I get very depressed just thinking about being on the road for long periods of time. And, as time goes by, playing the drums is less and less interesting to me. I have a drumkit set up at my house and I have to force myself to go in there sometimes."

So are Metallica the last great Monsters Of Rock? "Probably," Ulrich says. "Is that evasive enough? To be honest, it's hard for me to take a passionate stand one way or the other."

Garage Inc is released by Vertigo/Mercury on Nov 23

Hands of gold

BRAD MEHLDAU
Songs: *The Art of the Trio, Vol. 3* (Warner Bros. 9362-47051-2)
THOSE unable to get to see American pianist Brad Mehldau's solo performance tomorrow at the Purcell Room might console themselves with this, the third of his *Art of the Trio* recordings, featuring bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jorge Rossy. Mehldau's classical training shows in his extraordinary sensitivity to nuance and subtleties of colouration, but his improvisational gift is what has led such luminaries as Pat Metheny and Charlie Haden

JAZZ ALBUMS

to rave about him. Here, Mehldau intersperses luxuriantly slow standards with his own intense, quirky compositions to produce a series of slow-building, meditative explorations packed with musical wit and controlled drama. This elegant album can only enhance his already enviable reputation.

THE REMOTE VIEWERS

Low Shapes in Dark Heat (Leo Lab CD 049)
THE Remote Viewers — soprano/alto player Adrian Northover, altoist Louise Pettis, tenor and synth player Dave Pettis — are the three saxophonists from B Shops for the Poor, so those familiar with the parent group's blend of fierce improvisation and close-harmony regimentation will immediately recognise the trio's overall sound. Their material, however — a mix of distinctive originals, many sounding like escapes from a lost soundtrack to *Metropolis*, and visits to Sun Ra's *Astro Black*, the theme to the TV series *Callan* and an affecting version of *It Was a Very Good Year* — is more wide-ranging than B Shops'. It all constitutes not only an absorbing set in its own right, but also a useful introduction to the work of the larger unit.

CHRIS PARKER

Advertisement for the movie *AMZ*. It features a large graphic of the letters 'AMZ' with a character climbing them. Text includes: "The most inventive and dazzling movie of the year", "brehtaking", "terrifically funny and sophisticated", "A brilliant work of genius... fabulously funny", "irresistible", and "NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY".

Big, big country

LIVE GIG

THE money-making juggernaut that is the Garth Brooks entertainment phenomenon last made a passing stop on mainland Britain around 1994, when the best-selling recording artist of the 1990s played to a Wembley Arena crowd that wore its cowboy hats with pride. Then the juggernaut roared off again, and Brooks went about the business of amassing his almost unbelievable US album sales of 82 million. As Brooks prepares for next Monday's release of his *Double Live* album, his British fans seem to have been written out of the spectacular equation. But his Irish followers are in the thick of it, and glorying in the compliment.

On Wednesday evening at the Kings Hall Brooks played the first of the five Belfast shows with which he is concluding a tour that has thrown concert history into the statistical blender. Over a 32-month period, he has played 347 shows in 99 cities to five million people. But if the statistics suggest that Brooks has become a one-man industry, that is to underplay his primary talent as an unparalleled communicator.

At his afternoon press conference he explained that, as in all previous 99 ports of call, TV crews would not have access to his show as their sound would not represent his performance in its best light. There spoke the single-minded businessman, but on to the stage came the consummate populist entertainer, and Belfast loved every moment.

The 7,500 sell-out crowd knew every word, every note that the ever-humble Garth and his band served up, and most of those by Trisha Yearwood, who not only provided distinguished support but dueted with Brooks. The highlights of a show that took country, pop and gospel to the masses included *Friends in Low Places* and *If Tomorrow Never Comes*, for which the lighters came out in force. To call this irresistible burlesque more than mere country is not to question its lineage: Brooks comes from the heartland of American showbusiness that defies such categorisation, and it's hats off to him for it.

PAUL SEXTON

Advertisement for Linda McCartney's new single "Wide Prairie". It features a black and white portrait of Linda McCartney. Text includes: "Linda McCartney", "New Single", "Wide Prairie", and "cd, mc and limited edition 7" picture disc. Out now."

Large advertisement for SkyDigital. Text includes: "Only SkyDigital can give you more for less", "SkyDigital has the widest choice of channels available. Whatever price you pay for a package, you'll get more channels with SkyDigital than with any other digital TV service. And we also offer you the lowest subscription entry price. Channel packages start from only £6.99 to £29.99 a month and you can change your package at any time with a simple phone call and at no extra charge.", "To experience SkyDigital visit your nearest SkyDigital retailer for a simple demonstration, see www.skydigital.co.uk or call now for more information on 0870 240 2000 ref. ME10", "skydigital", "It's what your television's been crying out for".

مكتبة من الأصيل

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. It includes the text "THE TIMES POP ALBUMS", "Age", and "EXCLUSIVE OFF". It features a large image of a CD case for "Age" by a band, with the text "EXCLUSIVE OFF" and "DISC 1000".

LIVE GIG Garth Brooks

Hands of gold

BRAD MEHLDAU... THE REMOTE VIEWER

JAZZ ALBUMS

THE REMOTE VIEWER

THE REMOTE VIEWER

THE REMOTE VIEWER

THE REMOTE VIEWER

THE REMOTE VIEWER

THE REMOTE VIEWER

POP ALBUMS

Jewel sparkles with Spirit

A gem, plain and simple

NEW POP ALBUMS

JEWEL Spirit (Atlantic 7567-82950 £14.99)

Recent albums by Alanis Morissette, Tori Amos, Madonna and even Joni Mitchell have made heavy work of the vogue for turning self-analysis into song.

There is, too, the engaging sense of an artist who is prepared to seek solutions to the worries of her world instead of merely cataloguing them.

Quite apart from the purity and depth of Jewel's vision, though, Spirit is about the pleasure of hearing an unadorned, bell-like voice in the service of good songs.

SEAL Human Being (Warner Bros 9362-46828 £14.99)

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

700,000 of them in Britain. He was, however, sidelined by Britpop and has now chosen in sign direct to his record label in America, where he has prospered for years.

Ironically, though, Seal's third album, Hunton Being, marks something of a return to the cosmopolitan street-level influences acquired during his time spent growing up in London.

Relieved of some of the clutter, Seal's husky voice has room to stretch and breathe, marvellously so on Lost My Faith, and goes sailing into a seriously haunted upper register during the mysterious Still Love Remains.

WHITNEY HOUSTON My Love is Your Love (Arista 07822 9037 £14.99)

And it is indeed an eye-opening set of tough, modern R&B songs which, for the most part, sound quite unlike the soggy power ballads for which she is best known.

Too bad then that the first single is When You Believe, an untypically simple-minded duet with Mariah Carey, which sends out all the wrong signals.



On Spirit, Jewel shows the likes of Alanis, Tori, Madonna and Joni how to bare your soul and retain your credibility

E-17 Resurrection (Telstar TCD3015 £12.99)

IN ATTEMPTING to make the transition from boy band pin-ups to credible, grown-up artists, the former East 17 have made an album of surprisingly plausible R&B songs interspersed with sultry soul ballads.

Brian Harvey has a supple voice, and over the course of 13

numbers the three lads pull it off more often than not. The one serious shortcoming remains their lyrics which, apart from some cheeky incursions into R. Kelly territory ("Betha can't stop thinking 'bout my love rock") generally express little beyond the blandest and most predictable of romantic sentiments.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 (2) The Best of 1980-1990 & B-Sides... U2 (Island)
2 (3) The Muppetman... Oasis (Creation)
3 (-) Ladies & Gentlemen - The Best of... George Michael (Epic)
4 (13) The Best of... M People (M People)
5 (1) I've Been Expecting You... Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
6 (5) Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
7 (4) Quench... Beautiful South (Gut Discs/Mercury)
8 (14) Talk on Corners... Corrs (Virgin)
9 (7) Milk... Phil Collins (Mercury)
10 (8) The Star and Whisker... Ladysmith Black Mambazo (Polygram TV)

POP OPINION

Who really has the power?

Geri and the pacemakers

Former Spice Girls - in fact, all pop stars - just don't figure among the nation's movers and shakers

Did anyone see that terrifying list of wrongness, The Power 300, published in The Observer, which purported to be a definitive list of who wields the real power in Britain as we slouch towards the millennium?



CAITLIN MORAN

Other questionable power-rankings came in the form of Richard Ashcroft, lead singer of the Verve, at No 273, and George Michael, lead singer of George Michael, at 210.

Of course, these lists are compiled with a populist spin. At the beginning of their deliberations, the Power 300 panel discounted all members of the military, regulators and quangos heads, ostensibly to reveal those with "serious purchase on the levers of power"; but in reality, one suspects, to replace endless pictures of fat girthy sixties something Oxbridge with people we actually recognise.

underestimated the amount of pop knowledge possessed by someone who stands around shouting, "And now, Cherr". Actually, no I haven't - the woman knows absolutely knock-all.

The amount of power wielded by pop icons has always been hysterically miscalculated. It's generally supposed that anyone who can persuade 20 million people to buy their album - as is the case with Noel Gallagher - is on a par with the chairman of Marks & Spencer (No 18), responsible for a cardy that sells a similar amount. But it ain't so - M&S works out what the market wants, designs by top-quality committees, expensively think-tanks until the wee small hours and then markets with astonishing precision. Musicians, on the other hand, get drunk and fall into a song. Selling shed-loads of your "accident" does not mark you out as a financial visionary; in the best possible sense, musicians don't know what they're doing.

No, the people who really have their hands on the levers of power are, as always, public school-educated white men in their fifties and sixties, who prove their power daily by not having to tour Austria, sing "Happy Birthday" to Prince Charles, or have kids shout "Your last album was knacker" at them in the street.

Those who seek to "elevate" artists by ascribing power to them cripple the very thing that makes artists artists: they do it because it is beautiful, not because it is clever or right or important. If they start chasing songs in order to become powerful, we're all going to hell in a handcart.

Advertisement for The Times featuring a collection of wine and beer bottles. Text includes: 'AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES DISCOUNTS ON YOUR DRINKS BILL We pay the VAT on all your wine and beer' and 'CHANGING TIMES'.

Advertisement for the movie 'The Exorcist'. Text includes: 'FRIDAY THE 13th ...what an excellent day for an EXORCISM!' and 'NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE'.

sky logo

LISTINGS

Royal Ballet in Belfast

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merril Hargie

LONDON

SOUTH BANK MID: A heady blend of jazz and classical is on offer here this weekend. Tomorrow (Friday) at 7.30pm...



Django Bates starts a British tour in the QEH

SHANG-A-LANG: Three 40-year-old girls aim to revive their lusty school-days at a Glam Rock revival...

ST CECILIAE: This week-long international festival of music opera with a concert by the Pilsen...

ELSEWHERE: Belfast: The Royal Ballet makes its first ever visit here with a season featuring two excellent programmes...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

- CRIMES OF THE HEART: Amanda Bynes plays one of the three sisters in Beth Henning's Pulitzer Prize-winning family drama... LOVE UPON THE THRONE: The National Theatre's Brent takes us through the courtship of Queen and Dr...

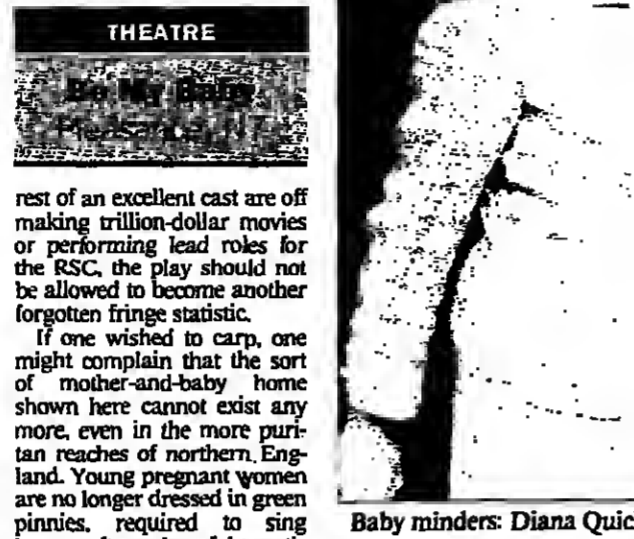
FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

- BLADE (R): Extravagant, jumbled horror fantasy. Fun for a time, with Wesley Snipes as the vampire-slaying action hero... THE ODD COUPLE II (R): Muddy amusing but unnecessary sequel...

ARTS Mum's the sad word

If the exiled Soho Theatre can offer an evening as nourishing as this after seven days' rehearsal, my critical stomach feels decidedly hungry for next autumn...



THEATRE

rest of an excellent cast are off making trillion-dollar movies or performing lead roles for the RSC, the play should not be allowed to become another forgotten fringe statistic...



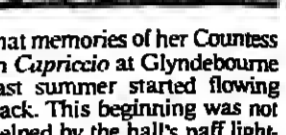
Baby minders: Diana Quick (Mrs Adams) and Eleanor Bron (the matron) star in Amanda Whittington's touching play

These girls to take their babies into the world outside, the result would most likely be ostracism and disaster. "Where will you go?" she repeats. "How will you live? There is no other way..."

Arias and grazes

Kiri Te Kanawa can fill the Albert Hall and even provide a little revenue for the ticket touts. But she and her advisers still appear to be struggling to devise the right sort of concert programme for her voice at this stage in her career...

RECITAL



that memories of her Countess in Capriccio at Glyndebourne last summer started flowing back. This beginning was not helped by the hall's naïf lighting...

Pain in short bursts

Guiding Star Cottesloe

The gay teenager who outs himself is a regular character in Jonathan Harvey's plays, most famously in Beautiful Thing, and here he is again in this latest piece, directed by Gemma Bodinetz...

FT re

FT re... The second half was distinctly West End. Even with microphones sprouting around the hall Te Kanawa was in fitful form as a musical comedy star...

ART GALLERIES, EXHIBITIONS, THEATRES. Includes listings for 'A MASTERPIECE OF MUSICAL THEATRE' and 'CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR'.

THEATRES. Listings for various plays including 'THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA', 'THE WOMAN IN BLACK', and 'AN INSPECTOR CALLS'.

THEATRES. Listings for 'THE SHREK MUSICAL', 'THE MOUNTAIN', and 'THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA'.

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Kiri in fitful form... Arias and grazes... Kiri Te Kanawa...

RECITAL... Kiri Te Kanawa... Albert Hall...

Various small text fragments and advertisements on the left margin.

The safest solution is to step out of the closet

The issue of MPs and their sexuality over the past few weeks has led to a vast outpouring of humbug that tells us a lot about the state of society and the workings of the media.



of the BBC. Newspapers have also had a difficult week, with the usual cast of characters calling for the introduction of privacy legislation or the strengthening of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) to protect privacy.

homosexuality is that the public mood is still in transition and probably varies by generation. On the whole the public is becoming more tolerant and accepting.

We are heading for a situation where politicians can be open about themselves without suffering at the polls, and the sooner that happens the better for all concerned.

A role model is Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, who has been, at least in recent years, open about being gay.

Blairs' friend wooed to keep out privatisers

CHANNEL 4 is lobbying hard for Barry Cox, former LWT millionaire director, to be its deputy chairman when Bert Hardy steps down in December.

FT readers swing to Labour

The nation's intellectual elite is abandoning the Tories, says Robert M. Worcester

FINANCIAL TIMES advertisement featuring a large portrait of Robert M. Worcester and various headlines like 'Footie's hot October', 'Magazine publishing', 'US boosts Gulf force as pressure grows over strike', and 'Iraq deputy PM on secret arms group'.

Britain's financial and intellectual leadership has swung sharply behind the Blair Government since it took office 18 months ago, according to a MORI analysis carried out for The Times.

VOTING INTENTION BY READERSHIP table showing newspaper readership for 1997 and 1998, with columns for newspaper name, readership numbers, and swing percentages.

MORI's aggregate of seven voting intention polls during the third quarter of this year (including the three monthly polls for The Times) provides large enough sample sizes to analyse the political affiliations of readers of most national newspapers, and to track them over time.

NOW it's MacKenzie & Son. No sooner had Kelvin taken over as the chairman, chief executive and 30 per cent shareholder of Talk Radio than he made his son, Ashley, advertising sales controller.



DANNY BAKER is expected to be named next week as Talk Radio's new breakfast show host, the slot which Kirsty Young vacated as soon as the takeover talks began last June.

GLAD to report that even in the fickle world of youth magazines, you're not past it at 30. Company, the go-getting glossy aimed at women in their early twenties, has appointed a new editor, Sam Baker, who is joining from Minx and before that Just 17.

Programme controller required. No experience necessary.

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media times

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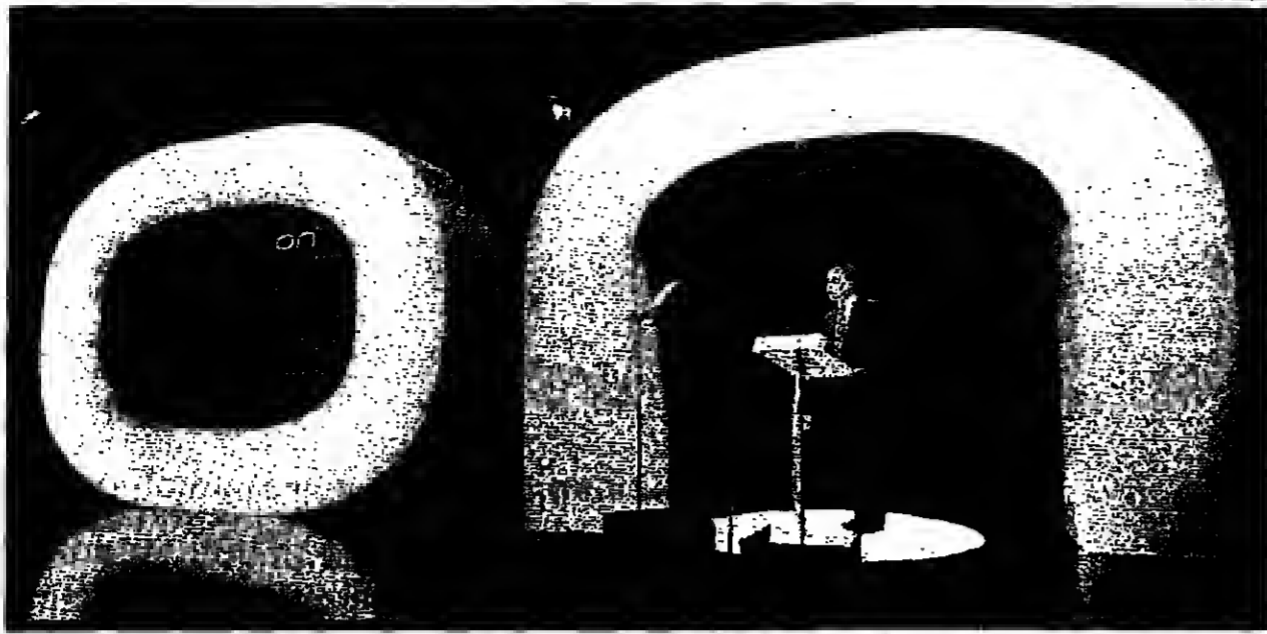
The head of the first digital terrestrial TV service plans to keep the launch low-key. **Raymond Snoddy reports**

When SkyDigital launched its 140-channel service on October 1, a huge party was held in the shell of Battersea Power Station, within sight of Sky's rival, ONdigital.

When the latter launches the world's first digital terrestrial television service on Sunday, it will mark the event in a most unusual way — there will be no party and the various broadcasters that will together offer 30 channels of digital terrestrial will carry out their own on-screen launches. "This is work as usual. I've told staff there will be a party when we sign one million subscribers," says Stephen Grabiner, the head of ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial player, which has put together a 15-channel service.

To provide a visual memory, or at least a photocall, of the digital terrestrial switch-on, Ulrika Jonsson, the television personality, will light up the Crystal Palace transmitter, a sight that should be seen all over London. One reason for the low-key approach is that few people will be able to see the launch-day programmes, as the digital decoders do not go on sale until tomorrow.

Grabiner, the former managing director of *The Daily Telegraph* who went on to run the newspaper end of United News and Media, concedes that the launch schedule for ONdigital has been tight. "One of the first things I did when I came in was to say we



ONdigital's Stephen Grabiner: "We are going to be for the people who want slightly more high-quality television"

would launch in November. Everyone thought I was a lunatic. It was only 11 months from when we got our licence but one by one we've knocked down all the obstacles," says Grabiner.

He refuses to set any targets, other than to try to reach the one million figure — and the party — as soon as possible. Although digital terrestrial cannot offer as many channels as satellite or digital cable, which launches next year, it can offer extra choice through the existing TV aerial.

"We are delivering the best channels in the simplest way," says Grabiner, adding that "Middle England" does not want dozens of channels but ten or so good-quality ones. ONdigital subscribers will have access to eight "free" channels in digital, plus a much faster, more sophisticated version of Teletext, the five

terrestrial channels and ITV 2 — which starts up next month and will not be available on satellite — and two new channels from the BBC, News24 and BBC Choice.

'Middle England does not want dozens of channels'

Viewers who opt for only the "free" channels will have to pay the full price of the decoder, almost £400, rather than the subsidised £199 offer.

For their first three months, ONdigital subscribers will receive all the "primary" channels for £7.99 a month, channels such as UK Gold, UK Horizons, Sky One, Eurosport, Granada Plus, Carlton Cinema and the

Cartoon Network. Subscribers will then be able to choose their six favourite channels for £7.99. Viewers will pay extra for premium channels such as Sky Sports, including Premier League football (News International, the owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake in

BSkyB) and the FilmFour subscription channels. "We are not trying to chase the 30 per cent who are already signed up to multichannel television," Grabiner says. "All of our marketing is aimed at mainstream TV viewers who want a bit more decent TV: they want ITV and the BBC and they'll probably buy a sport or movie package."

He believes that the competitive world of national newspapers, and the idea that people have a choice and that you have to satisfy the market, has honed his skills. ONdigital estimates that 70 per cent of the country will be able to receive the service at launch, rising to 90 per cent by the end of next year.

But even when digital terrestrial is available, not everyone will be able to receive the entire service. A report published yesterday by Claritas, the market research group, suggested that only 43 per cent of UK households will be able to receive the full service. The study — based on data supplied by the Independent Tele-

vision Commission — identified particular blackspots such as Liverpool, Hull, Coventry and much of Wales.

ONdigital is already finding that engineering predictions are proving conservative, and that people who were not supposed to get a full service are actually doing so now that many channels have been switched on. The system is already showing high-quality pictures and sound.

ONdigital, which is jointly owned by the two biggest ITV groups, Carlton and Granada, has begun poster and newspaper advertising, and the television campaign starts on Sunday, part of a £90 million marketing budget over the next 12 months. Brochures are now being posted to 150,000 people who have called expressing interest.

"We're going to fill the gap of Middle England. We will be for the people who want slightly more high-quality television and want to receive it in a simple way. It's not going to be SkyDigital; it's going to be ONdigital," Grabiner says.

Mopping up the blood at M&S

MARKS & SPENCER has been regarded, long and deservedly, as a model company. So seeing a boardroom row in M&S, as one journalist put it this week, is like seeing Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother hit someone with her handbag.

What we have witnessed recently is a rare display of inelegance from the company, and a reminder that even the best can look like children in the playground at times of pressure. It is also the type of affair instantly described as a PR issue. Well, plainly that is so since the world has been reading about it.

The question of who will succeed Sir Richard Greenbury as chairman and chief executive has been brought into focus because of a set of pressures on M&S's profitability, including what the company calls a "bloodbath" in clothing;

but also because it has allowed certain perceptions to gain currency: perceptions of autocracy, of concentration of power, of an "ivory tower" mentality; of clumsy commercial response — and because it has not shown sensitivity in handling predictable external concerns.

The last of these is the PR issue. But we should be confident that M&S will soon restore order, after this chastening reminder that companies, like people, are judged by what they say and how they say it as well as by what they do.

The S in M&S will again stand for success.

GARDENING LEAVE is now a familiar phrase to describe the hiatus between a heavy hitter leaving one job

and taking another elsewhere.

So, imagine that a gardener who departed to tend his flowers in early August is now back in action. When he left, the FTSE 100 was around 5,400. Today it is again around 5,400. Seemingly, nothing much has happened (assuming that he has read nothing between omes about liquidity crunches, market crashes and the halving of some share prices). But, as this column argued last month, the fundamentals always cut through — and as *The Daily Telegraph* wrote last Saturday, "panicking can damage your wealth".

Well-organised, and with a properly planned presentation, they work extremely well, and it is possible to make the constant travel relatively painless. The real killer is boredom.

The presentation has to be carefully scripted and legally verified, and departure from publicly disclosed information is not on. After the twentieth presentation, the element of fun has completely disappeared — which is why diversions are a welcome temptation on the road.

On one recent venture, four-inch toy Penguins became the roadshow mascot, which is why the US investor, on the other end of the telephone during a roadshow conference call, was puzzled to hear, in the middle of the answer to his question: "My finance director is playing with his Penguin".

Apparently he still bought into the offer.

SECURITY is often central to PR. So confidential

projects have codenames — which is fine, except when you find that you are working on three projects that have independently been given the same codename.

And if you do have a deal party list, the security can be blown when, as in the case of Nesile's acquisition of Rowntree's, it was headed, "Project X, 1 Nestle Avenue".

On one recent venture, four-inch toy Penguins became the roadshow mascot, which is why the US investor, on the other end of the telephone during a roadshow conference call, was puzzled to hear, in the middle of the answer to his question: "My finance director is playing with his Penguin".

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THE TIMES FRIDAY
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media times

I was active when it mattered

BSkyB's new chairman backed pay TV from the start, says Alan Tillier

The first impression one has of Jérôme Seydoux, 64, is of a relaxed, even self-deprecating French business aristocrat, not an ambitious media tycoon involved across Europe in pay TV and the production and distribution of films — as well as being owner of a French daily newspaper, *Liberation*.

Seydoux is the new chairman of BSKyB, where his 17 per cent stake is second only to that of News International, which owns 40 per cent. BSKyB's contribution underpins the profits at Seydoux's Pathé group, but he now wants to diversify. He says that the future of Pathé is "brilliant" given the digital TV prospects in Britain and France and the rise in cinema audiences in Europe.



European media empires based on pay TV. The others are Murdoch, Italy's Silvio Berlusconi and Germany's Leo Kirch. Seydoux ticks off the efforts of those going cross border: Berlusconi in Spain, Murdoch in Germany, France and the Benelux and Canal Plus in ten countries. Although he does not have a direct interest in Canal Plus, the French pay TV channel, he has 20 per cent of CanalSatellite, its digital offshoot. This is losing money but is the leader in France with 1 million subscribers. "It will break even in 2000," says Seydoux. "Sky Digital should be at 1 million subscribers a year from now."

Seydoux shuttles between Paris and London, where he lunches often with Murdoch. This week he was there to outline plans for Pathé's expansion in Europe in pay TV, film financing, distribution and ownership of cinemas. He told investors that Pathé intended to



Euro vision: Jérôme Seydoux, the new chairman of BSKyB, has ambitious plans for his media empire

take advantage of film production possibilities in Britain, where it won a National Lottery film award last year. Pathé Pictures has abandoned the US and will produce 35 films in Britain within six years. Seydoux was born into the billion-dollar Schlumberger oil equipment dynasty, originally from Alsace. He has two brothers — one of whom runs the rival Gaumont cinema group. Seydoux's personal business interests are estimated by France's *Le Nouvel Economiste* magazine to be from £160 million to more than £360 million. He started in the family's bank and was briefly head of the Schlumberger group before leaving. Seydoux invested in textiles, shipping, an airline, household goods, newspapers and the \$60 million flop of the remake of the film *Lolita* with Jeremy Irons. Perhaps his biggest setback was in TV with La Cinq, France's first in-

dependent channel in the 1980s, launched with Silvio Berlusconi after Seydoux's friend and golf partner, the late President Mitterrand, opened up French TV. The Right returned to government in 1986 and Seydoux was dispossessed. "La Cinq was put into pieces by Chirac [the French President]," he says. But it gave Seydoux a taste for TV and explains his presence with pay TV in Britain. "People said it would fail like the Channel Tunnel and Euro Disney. We were the ones that succeeded," he says.

Seydoux showed his acumen when he did business with Giancarlo Pirelli, the Italian financier who had sold MGM to the French State bank Crédit Lyonnais, thus setting it on the road to near ruin. Seydoux resisted MGM, but bought Pathé from Pirelli. It enabled him to build an integrated cinema production and distribu-

Carlton upsets Lawrence family

THE parents of the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence will stop co-operating with a Granada TV reconstruction of the case if a rival ITV programme from Carlton goes ahead. Broadcast reports that the Lawrence family is upset that the five youths questioned about the murder are to be interviewed in the Carlton documentary, to be aired in January. Martin Bashir, famous for his BBC *Panorama* interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, is said to have been talking to the five for some months and is likely to be Carlton's presenter. His BBC contract expires this month. The Lawrences have so far worked amicably with Granada, which began shooting this week.

ed to hit an all-time low this Christmas following a summer of poor sales. Discounts on beers bought to take home have started a month earlier than usual, with two-for-one deals being offered by the big names such as Carling, Carlsberg and Heinek. In the pub and bar trade, where the average quoted price of beer is £250, discounts for long-term supply contracts are as much as £120 a barrel. LVMH-owned Parfums Givency has appointed a new managing director, Gilles Dougoud, to oversee the launch of two new fragrances and a new range of cosmetics to be branded with Alexander McQueen's name. The move is considered to be an attempt by Givency to rejuvenate its brand, but without alienating its existing customers.

NATIONAL newspaper photographers may be banned from Premier League football grounds tomorrow unless they give the League more control over their pictures, Press Gazette reports. The League wants to prevent publication of "distorted" pictures of players and officials, such as the notorious image of Graham Taylor as a turnip. The newspapers are resisting any restrictions of the use they make of their own pictures.

VIEWERS are losing their taste for feature films on the small screen, according to an analysis in the average audience for the 50 most popular films on TV in the 12 months ending in September was 8.21 million, against 8.85 million the previous year. On Sky's dedicated movie channels, average viewing from January to August was 25 per cent lower than in 1997.

HELLO! magazine is under pressure from its rival, OK!, and is looking for a full-time advertising agency for the first time in its ten-year history, Marketing reports. Although sales of *Hello!* for the first half of this year were well ahead of OK!, by 506,000 to 221,000, it is reported that OK! pulled ahead in September on the strength of a series of Spice Girls exclusives.

GOOD to see that Bernard Ingham, the feisty former press officer to Margaret Thatcher, has not lost his blunderbuss touch, in his regular column in PR Week, he declares that the Labour Government "is now bracketed with second-hand car salesmen in the league table of purveyors of credibility". He adds: "After 18 months of slavery to Labour's spin-doctors, journalists I talk to are thinking it is time they made a dash for the freedom of cynicism."



GOOD news from Marketing Week. Beer prices are expected to hit an all-time low this Christmas following a summer of poor sales. Discounts on beers bought to take home have started a month earlier than usual, with two-for-one deals being offered by the big names such as Carling, Carlsberg and Heinek. In the pub and bar trade, where the average quoted price of beer is £250, discounts for long-term supply contracts are as much as £120 a barrel. LVMH-owned Parfums Givency has appointed a new managing director, Gilles Dougoud, to oversee the launch of two new fragrances and a new range of cosmetics to be branded with Alexander McQueen's name. The move is considered to be an attempt by Givency to rejuvenate its brand, but without alienating its existing customers.

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THE TIMES EDUCATION

Children need music

Lord Menuhin believes that music can create a crime-free society. Interview by Dalya Alberge



Lord Menuhin, left, with his wife and children: "Music draws upon feeling and thinking, joining the emotional with the rational"

Yehudi Menuhin, one of the century's greatest violinists, has called on the Government to recognise that music, dancing and singing have a vital role to play in civilising the young. Crime, he believes, could be reduced if only we gave our children a more cultural education. The arts, according to Lord Menuhin, should be a part of daily life but, instead, society has focused its attention on policing and prisons and moved away from music and culture. "That's not an answer to our society, which is materialistic and crime-ridden," Lord Menuhin says. "Art reflects the refinement of a civilisation. Violence and sex are all right, translated as energy and desire, but in their crude state are uncivilised. Music goes both ways. You make yourself heard and listen to others." Idealistic, perhaps, but Lord Menuhin has evidence. He points to the success of a pilot project at Oxford Gardens, a primary school in a violent area of West London. "They were having inner-city problems," he says. "Several teachers had to leave when they couldn't stand stabbings and God knows what. As soon as they brought in singing — and, this year, dancing — the school was transformed."

Liz Rayment-Pickard, the head teacher, says the programme has made an enormous difference, making the school an oasis in what is quite an aggressive community. "Certainly, in terms of the project being a crucial part of the school life, it has influenced the ethos of the school," she says. "It is much calmer. The fact that music is part of the curriculum is very powerful, particularly in a school that didn't have that much music before. This has been an extraordinary project to be involved with." Ms Rayment-Pickard concedes that initially she had doubts about the project: "I was taken aback by the success. I am not a musician so I was pretty hesitant about whether it would work." Lord Menuhin says: "We may need policing and prisons in the short run, but

you don't create a better society through them." Music, mime and the martial arts, he says, are liberating in that they channel and discipline energy. "They teach a reverence for craft and skill," Lord Menuhin says. He acknowledges, however, that much depends on the quality of the teacher, and notes that society tends to look on a child as "an empty sack into which we stuff facts and knowledge". Singing and dancing should be integrated into the daily routine in every school every day: "It creates the basis for intellectual development," Lord Menuhin says. "Music draws upon feeling and thinking, joining the emotional with the rational. It brings out the best in a child or young adult." In an ideal world every schoolchild

would have a musical instrument, he says, but emphasises that it is not a matter of money because singing and dancing cost nothing. "Everyone has a voice, lungs, eyes and a heart with which to communicate," he says. "It comes from the inner life of a child." Interestingly, Lord Menuhin declares the world of the arts devoid of criminal elements: "I've never known any school of music or art to produce a criminal. It just doesn't happen. I can't tell you the joy in seeing these children happy. When they sing and dance, they think better, understand better, are more communicative with each other and the world." "The first basic condition of thinking depends on both the emotional and the rational together. By bringing the music project into schools, we create a natural

condition where there is no need to teach tolerance or warn against crime. There can be no crime." There are numerous examples of the benefits, according to Susan Digby of the Voices Foundation, a charity which worked with Lord Menuhin in the Oxford Gardens school and which will take the arts project into schools in ten European countries. She found the transformation of one nine-year-old boy at Oxford Gardens particularly moving. "He came from an illiterate immigrant family and had been rejected by his peers. He was very miserable. Through the singing programme, he integrated with them and, above all, it promotes tolerance as every pupil is involved." The scheme targets a particular school

SOUNDING OUT MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

Music used to be a compulsory part of the national curriculum at primary level, with all teaching requirements specified in detail. But since the start of this term, there is only a glimmer of hope that music will be included in the curriculum, as it is dropped to make more time for literacy and numeracy. The result? In many schools, especially those without a specialist musician on the staff, music classes have either gone or are being slowly phased out.

Simon Rattle says: "Because in music children have to work together to create a performance, every type of social, organisational and co-operative skill is exercised." Although there are scores of musically impoverished primary schools all over Britain, we also have dozens of fine professional orchestras, which will need performers in the future. So it makes perfect sense for schools and orchestras to work together. This is why Orchestras NOW, an ambitious education campaign, has been launched by the Association of British Orchestras

(ABO) to develop more musical awareness in primary children. Last spring's National Orchestra Week, when orchestras opened their doors to the public to mark the association's half-centenary, was such a success that ABO decided to take the initiative much further. Fiona Penny, an education officer, appointed to run the Orchestras NOW project, says the aim is "to develop relationships which will help schools and their children to flourish". For a term or so, Orchestras NOW will assign individual musicians to schools to work in partnership with teachers. What the teacher lacks in musical skill, the musician can provide. In return, the teachers can lend support with their classroom skills.

Libby MacNamara, of ABO, recalls an earlier initiative in which a teacher at Cragside Primary School in Newcastle upon Tyne, worked with the Northern Sinfonia. "Several musicians visited her classroom and the children eventually performed, with the Northern Sinfonia, a piece specially written by Peter Maxwell Davies." Cragside is in a deprived area and, five years ago, there was lit-

tle or no music there. Today music has permeated the whole school and many children are learning instruments. Under the scheme, primary schools within reach of one of the 40 or so participating orchestras will receive information about the programmes. Next term Orchestras NOW is offering six free training days in different parts of the country for non-specialist teachers. Each day is to be hosted by an orchestra, which will describe its work and take participants through an introductory workshop led by the composer Alec Roth and orchestral players. A second National Orchestra Week is to be held from March 6-14, before which orchestras are organising educational events. Many of them have raised funds so that they can offer opportunities free to schools. During Orchestra Week, they plan to include families, so that people of all ages can be part of workshops, rehearsals and performances.

SUSAN ELKIN

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'Sweaty sports are just not feminine'

Fact: girls play hockey, netball and lacrosse, boys play football, rugby and cricket. The division of team sports by gender has never been actively tackled by schools and though greater choice now exists (there are 3,000 female football teams) this does not reflect the options available to men and women. The business world seems to acknowledge that team sports play an increasing role in women's lives, as shown by the recent sponsorship deal of women's football by AXA, the insurance company that also sponsors the FA Cup. But what is the education system doing to redress the balance?

Why are school games broken down on gender lines? Helene Mulholland finds out why football is still a boy thing

Cardinal Newman's policy is to teach girls and boys the same activities — apart from netball and dance, which boys do not have to do. Ms Thompson also coaches her students in football and cricket after school so that they can compete at tournament and league level. But as the only school in the area teaching girls rugby, competitive matches are not an option. Most parents have not complained, except when the kits come back very dirty. "But," says Ms Thompson, "I did get a complaint last year from a parent who told me that girls shouldn't chest the ball because they will get breast cancer."



Ultimate goal: the national curriculum does not stipulate gender division

Dr Laws believes that cultural mores cannot be overlooked. "Playing sport and getting dirty and sweating is not in line with feminine images," he claims. "Aerobics — an activity in feminine and light Lycra — seems to many people more fitting." Jeanne Keay, principal PE lecturer at Leeds Metropolitan University, is also aware that full emancipation of pupils in their sporting education has yet to be achieved, both for girls and for boys. But she is adamant that the problem is being tackled. "We work very hard with students to break the mould of boys' games and girls' games," she says. "But it is a slow process because it involves not just teachers but society as a whole."

Changing the thinking on sport is best started from the top. As head of girls' PE at Cardinal Newman Roman Catholic Secondary School in Brighton, East Sussex, Jenny Thompson is tackling the problem head-on. As well as netball and cricket, she teaches girls football, rugby and hockey. Opportunities she admits that she never had. "Every school in Brighton and Hove teaches girls to play football, but not necessarily cricket and certainly not rugby."

Girls don't have female role models to admire

Planning, performance and evaluating are vital ingredients of the PE national curriculum. Surprisingly, the choice of sports that are taught is left to the school's discretion. Dr Chris Laws is head of physical education at Chichester Institute of Higher Education. The college has 350 student teachers and Dr Laws says that within the 25 institutions in the country that offer PE teacher training, coeducation is very much the norm. "There is nothing in the curriculum which states that boys must be taught football and girls must be taught net-

ball," he says. At PE college, students are taught competence in all aspects of the national curriculum regardless of gender. "They do exactly the same sports and the same training." With such a fertile terrain for equal opportunities, what happens between teacher and theory and practice that leads to a rekindling of the divide in the majority of schools? Dr Laws believes that cultural mores cannot be overlooked. "Playing sport and getting dirty and sweating is not in line with feminine images," he claims. "Aerobics — an activity in feminine and light Lycra — seems to many people more fitting." Jeanne Keay, principal PE lecturer at Leeds Metropolitan University, is also aware that full emancipation of pupils in their sporting education has yet to be achieved, both for girls and for boys. But she is adamant that the problem is being tackled. "We work very hard with students to break the mould of boys' games and girls' games," she says. "But it is a slow process because it involves not just teachers but society as a whole."

Ultimately, what doesn't help is the near invisibility of women's team sports in the mainstream media, whether it is netball, hockey or women's rugby. "One of the problems is that girls don't have female role models to admire," Ms White says. "If you ask girls who their sporting heroes are they are often men. Women rarely have such high profiles."

Nineteen signatures to get my son into nursery

Schools are tied up in red tape, says Sue Ellicott

When my two-year-old son started nursery school a few weeks ago, the distance between Britain in the 1960s and California in the 1990s never felt greater. As a toddler more than 30 years ago, my first taste of independent life was a Wendy House in the corner of a Methodist hall, where mummies doled out orange squash. But Los Angeles today has little in common with the Cornwall of my childhood, which is why I'm still recovering from the nine sses of initials and 19 signatures I had to provide before my son was accepted by his first American school. Nineteen signatures, that is, excluding those on his application and the cheques I later wrote for his monthly "tuition", registration, obligatory earthquake kit and another for the pass that allows us into the underground car park. Yet in Britain this week the Government initiated contracts between pupils, parents and schools, outlining their rights and obligations to one another. Schools must offer the contracts from September, but neither parents nor pupils have to sign them, nor are they legally binding. Getting one's child into any kind of care in America has become an exercise in penmanship. But compared with many nurseries for two-year-olds, my son's is easygoing. Yet even before he started, the school's director, a usually cheery woman with a sensible manner, handed me a fat folder that took one full hour to read and another to reread and sign. First, I signed something saying that I'd read an enclosed pamphlet about sexual abuse and how to prevent it, something else naming those authorised to collect my child from class, something giving the school permission to take him to hospital if he is injured and something accepting "full financial responsibility" for his treatment and transport. There was also some-

Teachers and schools live in constant fear of being sued by parents or students

thing giving my consent to his leaving school on foot for field trips, something about my "parental rights" to visit the centre during opening hours and even something permitting his teachers to apply sunscreen to him during outdoor play. Not just any old sunscreen: the children are allowed to apply only the sunscreen their parents provide. "It's ridiculous, I know," says the school's director. "But most of the forms are not even ours. They are requested by the state. And we have fewer than schools in many other places." Teachers and schools live in constant fear of being sued by parents or students for any transgression, real or imagined, and forms rather than common sense have become their guiding light. One day I arrived to pick up my son during a heatwave. His entire class was playing around the water sprinkler, except for Harper, who was at a table in the shade. He could not join in. I was told, because his sunblock had run out. I offered to lend him ours but his teacher overrode a finger. "We can't do that," she said. "He might be allergic to it and we'd be responsible." Mealtimes are also fraught with problems. Teachers are nervous about feeding children any of the "high-risk" foods linked by studies (which have been given big media play) to allergies and fatal accidents among small children. Hence a page in my nursery pack banning peanuts, grapes and raisins from my son's packed lunches. Apparently, he might choke on one. Personally, I think he's more likely to come to grief on the slide, shoved by a thug-gish classmate — but there was no form for that. I can't make a fuss. Stropky types should beware: there is no messing with American rules. Among the forms signed was a pledge understanding that my child may be discharged from his school "should I fail to comply with the annexed policies or the appropriate requirements of the management personnel". On balance, it is the teachers who deserve our sympathy. In New Jersey, a chapter of the National Education Association, a teachers' union, has defended a male teacher accused by a primary-age girl of sexual assault after he adjusted her fingers on a musical instrument. He won his case but gave up teaching, saying the lawsuit had wrecked his life. The New Jersey union now asks gym and music teachers to have a second adult present during practice. Administrators have little choice but to protect themselves and their staff as best they can from overzealous parents. So concerned are some teachers about potential sexual lawsuits that unions and school districts have banned their members from giving pupils hugs or encouraging pats on the back, lest they be misconstrued as abusive.

CRICKET

Healy intent on smoothing off his rough edges

THROUGH the five, one-sided series and 28 Test matches since the Ashes last changed hands, two Australians have danced constantly at the bedside of the English patient. Mark Taylor has somehow commanded affection but Ian Healy has inspired irritation, suspicion and only a grudging respect.

In the cricketing culture of heroes and villains, Healy has always worn the black. Indeed it is only now, with 106 caps and a world-record number of dismissals to his name, that perceptions of the Australia wicketkeeper are changing for the better. The way he is going, he will retire with the admiration that he merits.

Yesterday, as the tropical clouds gathered over Cairns and local talk was of early monsoons threatening an England XI's four-day game against Queensland, Healy was nonetheless preparing in his usual way. He had an indoor net, a session on the massage table and then used a laptop computer to study every ball he gloved, or dropped, during the state's most recent match. As ever, nothing if not meticulous.

Along with the trademark characteristics of diligence, energy and feisty single-mindedness, however, features new are evident in Healy. "I think I've mellowed," he said. He goes further, acknowledging with sadness the low opinion of him that was widely broadcast over a number of years. "A lot of images of me have been wrong but perception can become reality. I think I was seen as very aggressive, very blokey, very mouthy. A high percentage of that was inaccurate but no one was willing to get to know me better, they were just happy to go on projecting it. My rawness had rough edges. I know that, but we weren't a confident team in my early days. I was trying to please the team, not the people. I can see both sides now, and these days we've got a team that simply needs me to be decisive, not the prickly, combative character I was."

He has not suddenly become a pussycat but perhaps he was never the snarling Doberman, either, just tough and durable with a desire to win that occasionally trespassed into areas of offence. I suggested that his on-field integrity was sometimes questioned

Alan Lee talks to Australia's combative but mellowing wicketkeeper

and he responded levelly. "You're telling me that and I don't disbelieve it, because it was two years before I even realised I was being bagged for over-appealing."

Healy came into cricket from a daunting background — teaching physical education in a high school south of Brisbane. "It was rough," he recalled. "People think it's easy teaching outdoors but the kids have got no walls there." He had a brief, radical career change, into selling women's fashions, before turning professional after his first Ashes series, in 1989.



Healy: wicketkeeper supreme

By then, he had suffered feelings of inadequacy during his debut tour of Pakistan. "I was the sixth wicketkeeper they'd tried in the four years since Rod Marsh packed up. I was raw, overawed and insecure. I couldn't quite work out why I was there." Quite a contrast with his most recent return to Pakistan for a series in which he broke Marsh's dismissals record and helped Australia to their first win in the sub-continent for 29 years.

"It was good to be part of a team that wasn't scared of being there," he said. "When I first went, we were expecting too many bad things from the umpires, the pitches or the food. Now, we turn every situation into a positive."

Healy is reluctant to add his voice to the orgiastic nationalism preceding this series — one newspaper yesterday claimed that the second-best team in the world was Australia A — and he disputed the popular cry that it is becoming boring for Australians to beat England. "I've always prepared for tough series against England and I feel the same way about this one. I look at their team on paper and I feel it should be very even. It can never be monotonous playing against England."

If anything, Healy's increased recognition of his skills, it is the way that he has kept wicket to Shane Warne. "Shane has allowed me to showcase what I can do. It has been a constant challenge but I've risen to it, so my profile has improved. Warne has helped wicketkeeping as well as spin bowling."

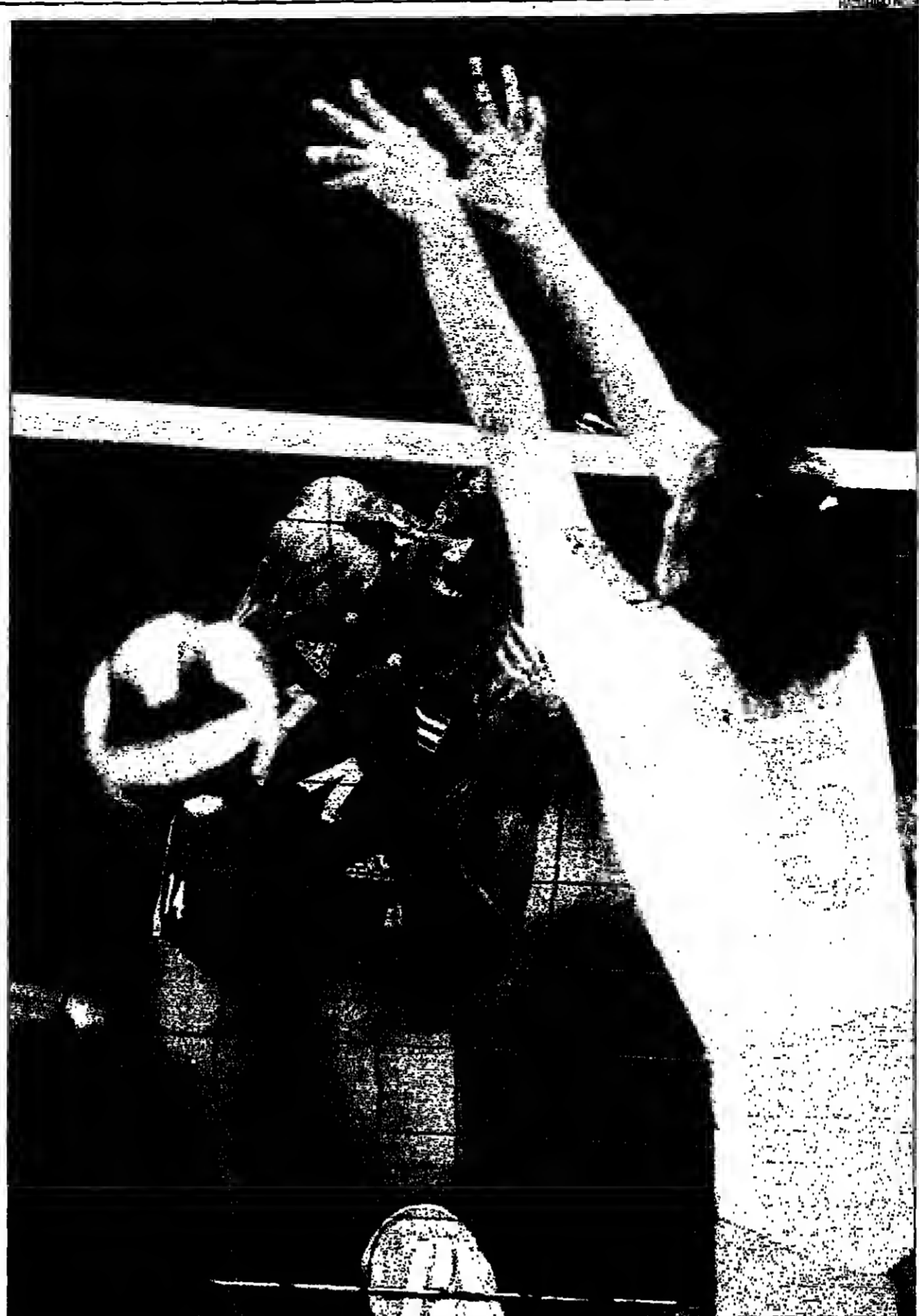
"We will be starting this series without him and it leaves a psychological hole. I don't think we will ever properly fill it. But we have got to try."

This realistic attitude is typical of Healy. Since he studied sports science, when in teacher training, he has kept careful and comprehensive diaries detailing every day of his career. They do not spare him, nor do they spare others. "If you are lying to yourself, it's a waste of time. Honesty is a crucial part of team success."

The diaries are littered with quotations that have struck him as apposite. When he toured the Caribbean seven years ago, he had just watched the film *Bodyguard*, and busily noted the words: "If you eliminate the fear of death, you can become invincible." He maintains that saying helped him when batting against the fast bowlers.

In later years, he has become a talismanic figure to the Australia team. He is first into training sessions and last to leave, he personally designed the striped blazers that have become the team uniform and, of right, he leads the singing after a Test victory.

By his own admission, he is thorough almost to the point of obsessiveness. At 34, he confessed: "I'm aware of what is expected from a senior player but I don't always like it. I'd rather finish as I started, doing everything to the full. I don't even like having two or three beers and then stopping. It's none or a gulf."



Ana Fernandez smashes a winner as Cuba confirm their status as the top team in women's volleyball by retaining the world championship title with a 3-0 win over China in the final in Osaka, Japan, yesterday. Cuba won by 15-4, 16-14, 15-12 and except for their new, skintight strip, little had changed in the two

years since the countries met at the Olympic final in Atlanta, where the Cubans prevailed by the same 3-0 scoreline. China, who landed successive world titles in 1982 and 1986, ineffectually derided the opening set but offered more resistance in the second and third. They looked as if they might make a real fight

of it when opening a 10-4 lead in the third set, but were unable to press home their advantage. The Cubans also reaped most of the individual awards, including that for the world's best player, which went to Regla Torres Herrera, along with a cheque for \$100,000. Russia won the bronze medal by beating Brazil.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Trinity make it third time lucky

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WAKEFIELD TRINITY, the first division champions, yesterday won over the independent franchise panel at the third time of asking and will join the new Gateshead Thunder outfit in an expanded 14-team JJB Super League competition from next March.

The panel originally recommended rejection of Wakefield's application, then withheld a final decision to consider further details about Wakefield's business plan — the basis for its approval.

It is the first time that promotion of a club had been assessed against minimum-standards criteria.

"The thorough and professional approach adopted has been longer than everyone had hoped, but we can confidently go forward now," Ted Richardson, the Wakefield chairman, said.

Before a proposed move to a new stadium, near the M1, by 2000, Wakefield are to spend £250,000 on temporary improvements to their Belle Vue ground and switch televised matches to Barnsley Football Club. There will be no extra levy on existing Super League clubs as there is to help to fund Gateshead.

The panel, while satisfied ultimately that Wakefield meet the majority of requirements laid down by the Rugby League Council, doubted in its original recommendation whether a small business operating at a modest profit had the capacity to expand to the required level without "dangerous destabilisation".

The Super League has already overseen the closure of Oldham Bears and Paris Saint-Germain, while Workington have dropped back to the second division. The re-introduction of relegation for one club next season will put an even greater onus on Wakefield, who, unlike Gateshead, must operate within the overseas quota.

Wakefield's addition evens up the numbers next season, removing the need for byes.

In an increase from 23 games at present, the 14 clubs will meet each other home and away and play four additional fixtures in a 30-match programme before the play-offs.

Cork handed empty Cup

DOMINIC CORK'S ambitions of playing in the World Cup next summer seem destined for disappointment. So, too, do those of Nasser Hussain, Mark Ramprakash and Alastair Brown after their omission from a provisional, 23-strong squad for the triangular one-day series in Australia starting in January.

Cork, has never quite matched performance to potential in limited-overs cricket, but he is the most pointed absentee. Hussain, who deeply desires a regular place in the one-day team, will be dismayed by his rejection but the most pertinent decision is to reject Brown, or rather his cavalier style as an opening batsman, in favour of the more conventional approach of Michael Atherton.

There are two uncapped selections, in Mark Alleyne and Vince Wells, and John Crawley has also been offered a window to the World Cup. Although Warren Hegg is

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CAIRNS

among the 23, David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, specified that "a part-time wicketkeeper, such as Crawley, could be deemed sufficient cover for Alec Stewart when the squad is reduced to a maximum of 18 next month."



Cork rejected

Adam Hollis is retained in the party, despite ludicrous media speculation that he would be banished for a jokey, if ill-advised, drug-based remark after England's elimination from the ICC tournament in Bangladesh.

Naturally, he will be accompanied by Ben, his younger brother, who was last night coming to terms with the fact that he faces at least another three weeks in Australia before he will have the chance to justify his inclusion in the Ashes party.

Hollisoke Jr was fit for selection for the four-day game against Queensland today, having recovered from a pulled groin muscle, but he did not even feature in a squad of 12 named here last night.

"We want to give the more experienced players more cricket," Graham Gooch, the tour manager, explained, "but I am very aware it is tough on the lad."

SWIMMING

Games heroes face long winter haul

By CRAIG LORD

ENGLAND'S four Commonwealth Games champions will be put to the test as they begin their winter race programmes at the Speedo British Grand Prix in Wolverhampton this weekend.

The event takes on added significance because it offers the last chance for British swimmers to qualify for the European short-course championships, to be held in Sheffield next month.

The four English swimmers who managed to conquer the mighty Australians at the Games in Malaysia, Susan Rolph, Katy Sexton, James Hickman and Mark Foster, are already assured of places in Sheffield.

But many who competed at the Games must prove themselves afresh at the start of what is an exceptionally busy winter race programme.

Beyond the domestic grand prix and European short-course championships, there

SAILING

MacArthur goes battling on through adversity

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ELLEN MacARTHUR, of Great Britain, is experiencing the hardest single-handed sailing of her career as she pilots Pete Goss's Open 50, *Aqua Quorum*, now renamed *Kingfisher*, through a succession of unpleasant Atlantic depressions in the opening stages of the *Route du Rhum* race.

However, despite the tough conditions, MacArthur, 22, is continuing to perform well. Yesterday, *Kingfisher* was the leading 50ft monohull in the race and was holding eighth place overall in the monohull fleet with seven much more powerful Open 60s ahead of her and five astern.

But MacArthur's battle with *Kingfisher*, and, indeed, the opposition, is being made harder than need be because of the absence of roller-furling gear on the headsails.

Her distressing experiences over the past three days underline not only what a hard nut Goss must be to have worked this system through the South-

ern Ocean, but also how much more difficult he made life for himself by not installing a relatively straightforward and reliable system, on which most single-handers rely.

MacArthur's rivals can shorten sail in minutes from



MacArthur: hurt in squall

the safety of their cockpits, but she is taking up to 55 minutes to do the same job. Trying to keep her footing, on an unstable foredeck swept by white water as the boat pounds to windward, is exhausting and dangerous.

On Tuesday, in a 30-knot squall, MacArthur received a nasty blow to the head. "While changing down to storm jib, I got whipped — mega bruises — and then, as the deck threw itself up at me, I caught my leg under the spinaker pole and whacked my head hard on the forestay and hanks. Instant swelling the size of a golf ball," she reported.

MacArthur is ploughing on. She continues to drive herself to the limits, but five of the 35 skippers who set out from St Malo on Sunday for the 4,000-mile race to Guadeloupe have now retired. The leader yesterday was Catherine Chabaud, of France, in *Whirlpool Europe 2*, who was 120 miles ahead of *Kingfisher*.

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THE TIMES DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO THE TITANIC DISASTER

COUNTDOWN TO DISASTER THE TRAGEDY UNFOLDS FINDING THE WRECK

هكذا من الأصل

Ferguson keeps plenty in reserve

BY KEVIN EASON

THE prospect of playing a reserve side for a place in the semi-finals of the Worthington Cup would normally brighten George Graham's day. An appearance at Wembley, something that he achieved in his first season in charge of Arsenal, would provide a welcome boost for the new Tottenham Hotspur manager and supporters who have endured a barren spell since the FA Cup victory of 1991.

Except that the reserves that Spurs will face come from Manchester United, who are the main favourites to claim a place at Wembley despite the fact that Alex Ferguson is refusing to field his first-team regulars in the competition. Ferguson, the United manager, is determined to stand by his second-string players, partly because it gives him an opportunity to rest his first-choice players, who have a grueling schedule of four games in 11 days around the time of the visit to White Hart Lane on December 2.

A reserve side that can boast Jordi Cruyff and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will still be feared by

QUARTER-FINALS

- Wimbledon v Chelsea
- Tottenham v Man Utd
- Sunderland v Luton
- Leicester v Blackburn

Times to be played week commencing November 30.

Graham's men, according to Ferguson. "They will play against Tottenham. We have said what our policy is and we want to do well. We will pick a team which we think will win, but also using my pool to its utmost advantage," he said.

"That particular week is quite a difficult one for us because we have a Sunday game against Leeds, then a game against Aston Villa and then Bayern Munich the week after that. If you ask our fans which team I should play against Tottenham, I think they will tell you all right."

The draw for the last eight guarantees the appearance of one Nationwide League team in the semi-finals with Sunderland, who beat Everton on penalties, facing Luton Town, of the second division, at the Stadium of Light.

Chelsea have also been brought back to reality after demolishing Arsenal 5-0, drawing Wimbledon in the quarter-finals. They played what amounted to a scratch Arsenal side on Wednesday night, but a sterner test awaits them at Selhurst Park where Wimbledon will be keen to exploit the money-making potential of making further progress in the competition.

Meanwhile, Leicester City, who beat Wimbledon in the semi-finals in 1997, are lining up a Wembley return. They face Blackburn Rovers, who put their Premiership struggles behind them by beating Newcastle United on penalties, at Filbert Street.

Minnows travel to Fulham hoping to take a leaf out of United's book

Leigh's army dreaming of glory

BY STEPHEN WOOD

THERE will be a southbound exodus from the metropolitan borough of Wigan this weekend but, in a rare switch of allegiance, few will bother to stop off in Watford for the conclusion of the rugby league international series. Instead, they will make for Fulham's Craven Cottage ground, consumed with expectation for what is the biggest match in the memory of Leigh RMI football club.

That statement is, perhaps, a little cheeky, for Leigh have



FA CUP

only been in existence for 3 1/2 years but, in truth, it could also apply to their 109-year history as Horwich RMI. In 1995, with no future for them in Horwich, they changed their name, address and, to an extent, their identity.

The immediate result of the move was relegation further into the abyss of non-league football. Moreover, the six-mile relocation took them from the football-friendly environs of Bolton to the rugby enclave of Wigan.

That is why their FA Cup first-round date with Fulham, on Sunday, is so important. Leigh have since regained their position in the UniBond League premier division and are again one consistent season away from reaching the Football Conference, but interest around the town has remained focused on the oval ball.

The imbalance will swing in their favour this time, though, for upwards of 2,000 people will travel with them to Fulham. Alan Robinson, Leigh's secretary, said: "It is a major breakthrough for us, and it is



Whealing, formerly with Blackburn Rovers, prepares for the FA Cup tie at Fulham on Sunday in the less-glamorous surroundings of Leigh RMI

difficult to comprehend the level of interest and excitement we've been attracting recently.

"The club had to move from Horwich, mainly because the pitch at Grundy Hill did not meet Football Association limitations - it was like a ski slope. We have struggled to settle down at Hilton Park, and the crowds of around 300 have been very disappointing, but this is the day we have been praying for."

"The supporters' club has never worked so hard but, of course, they have a product to sell now. That is the power of

the FA Cup and we just hope everyone keeps coming back when all this fuss has died down."

Fulham, of the Nationwide League second division, need not fear the giant-killing pedigree of Leigh. As Horwich, they reached the first round on two occasions, in 1928 and 1982, losing to Scarborough and Blackpool respectively.

Perhaps Leigh can surmount up some of the Cup tradition of a club that was once their neighbours. The initials RMI stand for Railway Mechanics Institute, relating to the days when Horwich was the main

site for maintenance on the Lancs and Yorks railway. That site was originally at Newton Heath, which spawned two clubs: Leigh, via Horwich, was one, Manchester United the other.

Had fate, or Roy Hodgson, not conspired against him, Anthony Whealing, the 22-year-old Leigh left back, could have been playing for Blackburn Rovers against United at Old Trafford on Saturday. Released by Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, over the summer, Whealing had trouble finding another professional club and is holding on

to the meeting with Fulham as a way of attracting belated attention from league managers.

Whealing will not be daunted by Craven Cottage. As an understudy to Graeme Le Saux at Blackburn, he was involved in the Champions' League campaign, earning a place on the Blackburn bench for the match away to Spartak Moscow. "It was an amazing experience," he said. "I'll never forget it, although not many people do, because that was the match when Le Saux and David Batty came to blows on the pitch."

Disillusioned, Whealing

stopped playing after leaving Blackburn, an early retirement prevented only by the persuasive powers of Gerry Luczka, the assistant manager at Leigh.

The FA Cup itself was on display at Leigh's training session last night, for all those new fans to admire. And if Waywell can outfox another big-name manager in Kevin Keegan on Sunday, the consequences for Leigh are unthinkable. "That would get us universal acceptance back home," Robinson said. "In fact, I don't think we'd be able to cope with the attention."

Hendrie sets sights on another golden goal

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHEN the draw for the first round of the FA Cup was made, those with long memories were struck by the tie that paired Manchester City with Halifax Town at Maine Road tonight. Their thoughts went back to the third round on January 5, 1980, at The Shay, when City, then in the old first division, lost to Halifax, of the fourth division - a result that was generally regarded as the low point of Malcolm Allison's second spell as City manager.

Paul Hendrie, the scorer of the only goal that day, will, no doubt, be taking note of events in Manchester, but he also has a cup-tie of his own to think about. He now manages Tamworth, of the Dr Martens League premier division, who take on Exeter City, of the Nationwide League third division, at the Lamb Ground tomorrow.

Nevertheless, Hendrie, who runs an industrial cleaning business, recalled his winner against City with fondness. It came in the 75th minute of a match played in difficult conditions. "Andy Stafford crossed, John Smith laid it off and I was support-

ing from midfield," he said. "I timed the run right. Joe Corrigan came out and I hit it into the bottom corner."

"I've had ups and downs in the FA Cup. When I was with Birmingham City, I was sub in the FA Cup semi-final against Fulham at Hillsborough and I played in the replay. Fulham scored the winner so late that they were announcing on the Tannoy the details for ticket allocations for the second replay at Highbury. Without doubt, the goal against City is the best cup memory I've had. It will always stick in my mind."

The two clubs are separated by only 18 league places today, but it is worth recalling that in 1980, City, although in the middle of a sticky patch when they went to Halifax, were fixtures in the top division and reached the FA Cup Final the next season, losing to Tottenham Hotspur after a replay.

"Of course City were a high-pro-

file club," Hendrie said. "They'd signed Steve Daley for £1.5 million, and we were in the old fourth division." So George Kirby, the Halifax manager, went to unusual lengths to even the odds. "He brought in a hyp-

notist, someone called Romark, from London, who was supposed to have a curse on Malcolm Allison."

If nothing so exotic, Hendrie has plans for the game tomorrow against Exeter. "We had them watched on Saturday, and my assistant went to see them at Rochdale on Tuesday." Predictions? "No. We'll just go out there and give it our best shot."

He is sure of one thing, however - that his side will take Exeter on for skill, rather than try to muscle them out of their game. "I don't encourage kick and rush. I like to get it down and play. There's no sense in changing our tactics and the type of players I've brought in don't play that way," Hendrie said. One of his most experienced players, Tim Steele, is a former Exeter man. "We're looking forward to it. The one thing a league club doesn't want is to be drawn away to a non-league

club and while Exeter are quite strong at home, their away record isn't that good. And they will be up against a partisan crowd. Our supporters are very loud and could play a big part."

A win over league opposition would push those Manchester City memories hard, but there is one further possibility that could eclipse even that magic moment in 1980. Should Tamworth reach the third round, there is the chance that Hendrie could face his son, Lee, the mid-field prodigy at Aston Villa.

"He's a different sort of player, although I've nursed him along and guided him in what I thought were the right ways," his father said. And it is not just in playing style that the two have differed. "I played for Birmingham, he plays for Villa; I played for Scotland Under-18s and he's got his England caps."

But the two might, just might, find themselves in opposition if the right balls should come out of the bag. "Lee has mentioned it too," Hendrie said. "It would be lovely to draw Villa - a dream come true."

Nick Szczepanik hears the manager of Tamworth reminisce about a giant-killing and dream of a family reunion

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

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Hockey

Havant pitch in for cup contests

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND CATHY HARRIS

HAVANT will ensure that their new dual-colour, artificial turf pitch is given a thorough work-out when they stage two third-round matches in the English Hockey Association Cup on Sunday. The women take on Slough and are followed by the men, who entertain Reading.

The latter is one of three ties that pair clubs from the National League premier division. Guildford and Old Loughanians will clash at Broadwater School. Goalkeeping Ian Jennings, the Guildford player, relies on Hall, Sampson and Fox in attack and Old Loughanians will pin hopes on Smith and Thompson for their goals. Cannock, the holders, entertain Beeston, who they beat 4-1 in the final at Milton Keynes last season.

Saltgate, with a surplus of talent, will be fielding a reserve side for the away match against Firebrands, but the appointment of Todd Williams as captain and the return of Soma Singh after injury, should provide enough experience to carry them through.

The premier division match between Cannock and Reading should be the highlight of a full National League programme tomorrow.

In the women's national league, Hightown are fast ac-

TENNIS: VICTORY FOR HENMAN TODAY WILL CONFIRM PLACE IN ATP TOUR FINALS

Rusedski holds right course

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

GREG RUSEDSKI moved within touching distance of the ATP Tour championships in Hanover when he defeated Vincent Spadea, of the United States, in the second round of the Scanla Open in Stockholm yesterday.

In a carbon-copy of his opening-round defeat of Tommy Haas on Wednesday, Rusedski raced away with the first set before encountering greater resistance. He needed five match points before finally subduing Spadea, who is one of the most improved players on the circuit this year.

The Hanover race comes to a head for Rusedski and Tim Henman today. Victory for Henman, who plays Magnus

Gustafsson, of Sweden, would book his place in the eight-man finals. Rusedski plays Daniel Nestor, of Canada, in another quarter-final in which victory for the No 4 seed, who has won more indoor matches than any other player this year, would require him to win his semi-final on Saturday to clinch his berth.

Rusedski's passage to Hanover was eased considerably when Pete Sampras, his projected semi-final opponent in Stockholm, was beaten in the first round by Jason Stoltenberg, of Australia. Rusedski became the first British player

reach the Hanover finals last year, when injury forced his withdrawal at the round-robin stage. Britain has never had two representatives in the tournament, which has prize-money of \$3.3 million.

Both hold healthy leads over the pursuing Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia. Kafelnikov is engaged in Moscow this week, where he must win the tournament and hope that either Rusedski or Henman slips up to claim a place in Hanover.

Inactive yesterday, Kafelnikov, who is himself under pressure from Goran Ivanisevic, today plays Guillaume Raoux, of France, for a semi-final place.



Rusedski: straight-sets win

BOWLS: ENGLAND RETURN TO ACTION LOOKING TO CONFIRM QUARTER-FINAL PLACE

Champions enjoy strong position

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES

ENGLAND, the defending champions, lead the section A league table after seven out of 11 rounds of the Manulife Hong Kong international classic pairs here at Kowloon and appear certain to qualify for the quarter-finals.

Andy Wills and Stuart Airey were invited to represent England in the classic in 1996, after a succession of high-profile players had turned in disappointing performances, and won the triples that year, followed by the pairs last year. Returning to the green after a rest day, they take on Australia. Kowloon Cricket Club and the

local Club de Recreio today, and complete their round-robin programme against Craignower Cricket Club tomorrow.

South Africa, who are hoping to appear in their fifth successive final, lead section B, one point ahead of New Zealand, with Ireland in fourth place. Wales have an outside chance of finishing in the top four in section A, but Scotland's hopes of qualifying for the last eight appear to be slim, as they are at present lan-

guishing in eighth place in the section B table.

The overseas players all agree that the standard of the local teams is improving. Kowloon, Craignower and the official representatives of the Hong Kong Bowling Association are all in line for places in the knockout stage.

MANULIFE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC PAIRS: Section A: 1, England 129; 2, Australia 11; 3, Craignower CC 10; 4, Hong Kong 9; 5, Wales 9; 6, Manulife 8; 7, Kowloon CC 8; 8, Indian Rls 8; 9, Craignower 5; 10, Victoria 4; 11, HKCC 4; 12, Club de Recreio 0. Section B: 1, South Africa 12; 2, New Zealand 11; 3, Kowloon BC 9; 4, Ireland 8; 5, HKSA 8; 6, Channel Islands 7; 7, Canada 7; 8, Scotland 6; 9, Sha Tin 5; 10, HK Polco 4; 11, Fingoo Club 4; 12, HKFC 3.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Harold takes initiative in final

■ SNOOKER: Dave Harold closed in on the second tournament win of his seven-year professional career, and an automatic wild-card invitation to the Masters at Wembley later this season, by establishing a 4-3 lead over David Gray, of Morden, in the opening session of the best-of-17-frame Benson and Hedges championship final at Malvern yesterday.

Harold, the World No 19, from Stoke, moved within five frames of his first title since the 1993 Asian Open despite Gray accumulating 213 points before Harold, who trailed 2-0, potted a ball.

■ TENNIS: Venus Williams, of the United States, has withdrawn from the Chase Championships in New York next week because of a recurring right knee problem. Williams, who had been receiving daily treatment on the knee, which she strained earlier in the year, said: "I would have loved to have been able to play but it's not possible." Listed fifth on the tour's computer rankings, she would have been making her first appearance in the season-ending tournament at Madison Square Garden.

■ ROWING: The Fours Head of the River, from Mortlake to Putney, on Saturday has again been massively oversubscribed, with the permitted maximum of 550 crews reached two days before the official closing date. The entry sees club rowers rubbing shoulders with Britain's top internationals and the flotilla will be led off by a quad scull of German international lightweighters from Mainerz, the first foreign club to win the event, in 1997.

■ CRICKET: Two Pakistan batsmen suffered broken bones leading to the abandonment of their tour match in Timaru, New Zealand, yesterday because of a dangerous wicket. Wajahatullah Wasti suffered fractured ribs and Taimur Khan had his thumb broken while batting against Northern Conference. The incidents came on the second day. At the abandonment, Pakistan A were 141 for six, replying to Conference's score of 272.

■ WEIGHTLIFTING: Plamen Jeliazkov, of Bulgaria, set world records for the snatch and the total lift in the 69kg division at the world championships yesterday. Jeliazkov set a record for the snatch with a lift of 160.0 kg, beating the previous mark of 158.0. Then Jeliazkov's clean and jerk of 190.0kg matched the record set by the International Weightlifting Federation when the weight categories were readjusted.

Scotland warned by Peter...

England

هكذا من الأصل

RUGBY UNION: WORLD CUP QUALIFIER OFFERS CHANCE FOR DUTCH TO PROVE COURAGE

England show no mercy

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT AND JOHN GOODBODY

THERE will be no concessions from England at Huddersfield tomorrow. They will treat their Dutch opponents in the World Cup qualifying game at the McAlpine Stadium as they would any other international team. "The first thing you do in any international match, is establish dominance in every area you can," Martin Johnson, the captain, said.



Guscott, the Bath centre, spins the ball out to his fellow threequarters during the England training session yesterday

The Netherlands would not want it any other way. They seek to be respected for their achievement in reaching this stage of the tournament, and England will give them their due. At the same time, England supporters will be disappointed if the team does not comfortably exceed their record total of 60 points in an international that was achieved in 1987, 1994 and 1998 against, respectively, Japan, Canada and Wales.

However, the Rugby Football Union has linked a series of seminars to the qualifying tournament, designed to help local clubs with aspects of funding, youth development and medical aid, while the presence in the Dutch XV of Caine Elisara may inspire some of his Wakefield colleagues to support their No 8.

There is controversy over drug-testing at tomorrow's game because nationally-recognised sampling officers are not being used. Urine specimens will not be analysed at King's College, London University but will be flown to Madrid for testing at another laboratory accredited by the International Olympic Committee.

When there is a reputable independent system for sampling in countries hosting the matches, anything needs to go elsewhere," Jakote said. The UKSC oversees the sampling and analysis for all four home unions and the International Rugby Board.

But for this tournament the Rugby World Cup (RWC) will be using a team assembled by Mike Anderson, the honorary doping controller for the competition. Although South Africa used Anderson for the 1995 World Cup, Jakote said this was because there was no sampling system established in the republic at the time.

Netherlands taught the Old tricks

The train is leaving the station and we must be on it, even if we are the last carriage," Geoff Old said. The World Cup locomotive is bringing The Netherlands to England for a match that could become a nightmare for the Dutch players, given the yawning chasm that exists between the sides.

International rugby has well-defined strata and if England, who play The Netherlands at Huddersfield tomorrow, are in the top-five layer, the Dutch lurk somewhere below the top 20. It is hardly the fault of The Netherlands if success in their own pool suddenly brings them swimming into the jaws of a basking shark, though the draw has been less than kind.

Having overcome their peers from Poland, Ukraine and Belgium, the Dutch then fell 42-3 to Romania; even so they had done enough to reach the final European qualifying stage, but whereas Georgia find themselves alongside Ireland and Portugal in Scotland, the Dutch must play England and, next Wednesday, Italy.

They have prepared as well as their limited resources allow, but the sight of their pack being shunted off their own ball by a scratch British Combined Services pack last week left little to the imagination.

Old, director of coaching to the Netherlands Rugby board, knows this. The former New Zealand back-row forward accepted an invitation from Lee Smith, the International Rugby Board's development manager, to help Dutch rugby forward, though his realistic World Cup target is 2003, not 1999.

David Hands meets the former All Black attempting to bring respectability to Dutch rugby

which to work. There are scarcely more than 8,000 senior and junior players in the Netherlands, scattered around 100 clubs of whom most run only one team, and that of a social nature. To bolster the body of Dutch rugby, he has combed the world for players with the appropriate qualifications — players such as Nick Holten, the flanker from Waikato, and Rob van der Ven, who plays for Puysegur in France.

There is no rugby in Dutch schools and half his 26-strong squad are students, among them Peter Hudson, 19, a flanker studying at Newcastle University. Old believes that Thomas Suring, a back-row forward, would be worth a look from a Premiership club in England and he hopes that the exposure his players receive may attract offers from professional clubs.

"There's natural flair in the Dutch, it shows in their football side. I'm trying to bring that to the surface. I'm coaching technique into these guys but we need to do that at an earlier age. All I can ask of them now is that they play to the best of their ability. I'm trying to create an environment where they can do that but if we are to move forward, we have to have games like these, we have to take risks.

He can laugh at the thought that if the Dutch make it through for the final qualifying places in the 1999 finals, which would mean beating Korea and Tonga, the prize could be a place in the same pool as England, Italy... and New Zealand. "We don't want to be patronised," he said. "We have worked hard to be here and we deserve to be treated like an international team."

McLaren has been a wonderful servant to rugby union

Words do no justice to voice of McLaren

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

In what is perceived to be the piranha-pool that media folk invent and that they choose to inhabit, it is time to sing the praises of a famous and conspicuously decent man. Bill McLaren is respected and, without argument, universally loved as a rugby commentator.

The 75-year-old, still going strong after a career that has spanned four decades, will be back in the commentary box again for the Wales-South Africa match tomorrow.

For all of us of a certain age, we have lived our rugby lives through the tenor of his voice, dreamt our dreams and relived many ancient moments with that mellow Borders brogue carving its way deep into our spirit.

If you want to know McLaren's life story you are advised to look out for his autobiography, or to wish to find in your Christmas stocking the video of his sweet recollections that was released last week. He can speak, as we all know, more than eloquently for himself. This is by way of a small appreciation.

We are all now very familiar with his magical voice, but it took quite a while to add flesh to the fleeing sound. What did he look like in his younger days? Tall of frame, sauntering with an almost forbidding glower, until the smile broke and the chat began.

He used to stand outside the Wales dressing-room dressed in dark, shadowy shades as if, were he to chance his arm with anything hinting of colour, the church elders might summon him to explain his flamboyance. Invariably, he was waiting for Gareth Edwards to come along. There was always a tin of peppermint sweets for the Wales scrum half to take home. It was a McLaren ritual.

He became integral to our winter rugby pageant, a comforting sound that accompanied us throughout the season. We were in his thrall. Part of the bliss in reclining at our ease to anticipate the afternoon's sporting fix was to listen to him as much as it was to see the game.

Listening to McLaren you could not tire of rugby. He is courteous, well-mannered and admires what he sees. He always acknowledges the fragile balance between good and bad, to which the players are vulnerable, without in any sense betraying, as some commentators do, that they could do better.

His homework of facts and figures is, modestly detailed on a large sheet. Listening to him is to appreciate that

he is no show-off, prepared to parade his information to enhance his own sense of authority. The facts for McLaren are not allowed to intrude on the spectacle itself nor to prum the sense of his own importance. They are used economically, judiciously and with an imaginative flourish, which add a literary texture to the sweaty scene.

He is not, what they nowadays call, an unorak. He is more like the unknown companion you hope to sit next to at a game: A well-informed devotee whose occasional interjections add to your own knowledge.

He is a proud Scotsman but we are spared any bias; his observations are fair and neutral. From Auckland to Aberdeen, Cardiff to Connacht, Bath to Brisbane, he is cherished.

It is a mark of his omniscience as a rugby commentator and his prodigious contribution to the popularity of rugby that, whenever the contract for the television rights are raised, and the BBC's position is in jeopardy, both sides of the negotiating table have had to ponder a future in the absence of McLaren. The contemplation of which has been, to the rugby authorities, akin to looking into the abyss.

He has been a constant mark of excellence and the touchstone for all those that follow. Simply, he has blessed rugby football with his inimitable presence. He has made all the difference.

□ The Famous Voice of Rugby (Pearson Television/Empire Media Production, £13.99)



McLaren has been a wonderful servant to rugby union

Scotland warned by Peters

BY ALASDAIR REID

THE New Zealand Maoris have named four All Blacks in their line-up to play Scotland at Murrayfield tomorrow. The players are Adrian Cashmore, the full back, Caleb Ralph, the centre, Norm Berryman, the left wing, and Kees Meeuwse, the right-hand prop. A fifth capped player, Glen Osborne, the wing, has been named as a replacement.

The Maoris, who scored 11 tries in their 69-3 win over Edinburgh Reivers on Wednesday, go into the match defending a four-year unbeaten record. Their international conquests since losing to Eastern Province in 1994 have included Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Argentina and, most recently, England, who were trounced 62-14 during their ill-fated tour to the southern hemisphere last summer.

Eric Peters, the Bath No 8, said that Scotland face an awesome task. "Guys like Matt Perry and Ben Sturman at Bath said they were the best side they faced on the whole trip," Peters said. "When you consider they also played the All Blacks and South Africa, that gives some indication of how strong the Maoris are. South Africa are the best side in the world at the moment, but the Maoris are probably in the top four as well."

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BASKETBALL, CRICKET, and GOLF, listing various sports events and results.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing football fixtures for various leagues including FA Cup, Football League, and others.

WORD-WATCHING

Table listing word puzzles and solutions, including MARAGING, XERYUS, and TENNIS.

WINNING MOVE

Table listing chess puzzles and solutions, including Korchnoi's form and Keene on-line.

SPORT IN BRIEF: Harold takes initiative in final

SMOOTHER: Dave Harold crowned in the second tournament win of his career...

TENNIS: Venus Williams of the United States has withdrawn from the Chinese Championships in New York...

CRICKET: Geoff Old said. The World Cup locomotive is bringing The Netherlands to England...

WZIGHT: The New Zealand Maoris have named four All Blacks...

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RUGBY 49

Magic all the way: how McLaren's voice makes the difference

SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 1998

ICE SKATING 50

Only 14 but ready to compete with the best in the land



Manager resigns post after failing to maintain the quality of Mersey

Tears as Evans laments leaving of Liverpool

By STEPHEN WOOD

THE boot-room that became part of the folklore of English football, let alone at Anfield, was demolished six years ago but, since then, its spirit had survived with the managerial reign of Roy Evans. Yesterday, however, as Evans left the club that has been his employer for 34 years, tradition was swept away on a wave of emotion.

Evans relinquished his position as joint-manager of Liverpool by mutual consent, leaving Gerard Houllier, his partner, to assume sole control. Houllier, the Frenchman, is the first foreigner to lead Liverpool, but he acknowledged the importance of the club's past by appointing Phil Thompson, the former Liverpool captain, as his assistant. The scenario had been expected, the intensity of events yesterday less so. In a bizarre changing of the guard, Evans delivered his valedictory messages before being driven away through the Shankly Gates; moments later Houllier arrived to take the seat he had vacated at the press conference.

David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, was the common bond between the two briefings. Close friends since Evans's arrival at Anfield in 1964 as a player, Moores sounded thoroughly sick at what he was having to do.

It could hardly have escaped Evans's notice that the venue for this public split was the

trophy room, underneath the main stand. Evans managed to add just one piece of silverware to it, the League Cup in 1995, and that return put him on borrowed time.

In a touching tribute, Moores insisted he could "talk for hours about Roy and his respect for him", before Evans himself tried to explain how it had come to this. The decision by the Liverpool board to create a dual management system became reality when Houllier joined, amid smiles and confidence, in July of this year.

However, in the past month it appears that Evans realised it would not work. "The logistics were not right," he said. "It was not a personal problem between Gerard and I, only that the players and other members of staff did not know who was running the team."

"We tried our hardest to make it work, and the players were totally committed in that time, but I felt that it would be beneficial for the future of this club if one man was charge. Results have been poor recently, so I let my feelings be known to the board of directors. I do not believe I have been a failure, but the success we achieved was not enough for Liverpool."

Evans, tearful when he was asked what he would do now, made it clear he would not disrupt Houllier's working life, something Bob Paisley had a problem with after



Moores, the Liverpool chairman and a close friend of Evans, looks on as the manager says an emotional farewell. Photograph: Dave Kendall

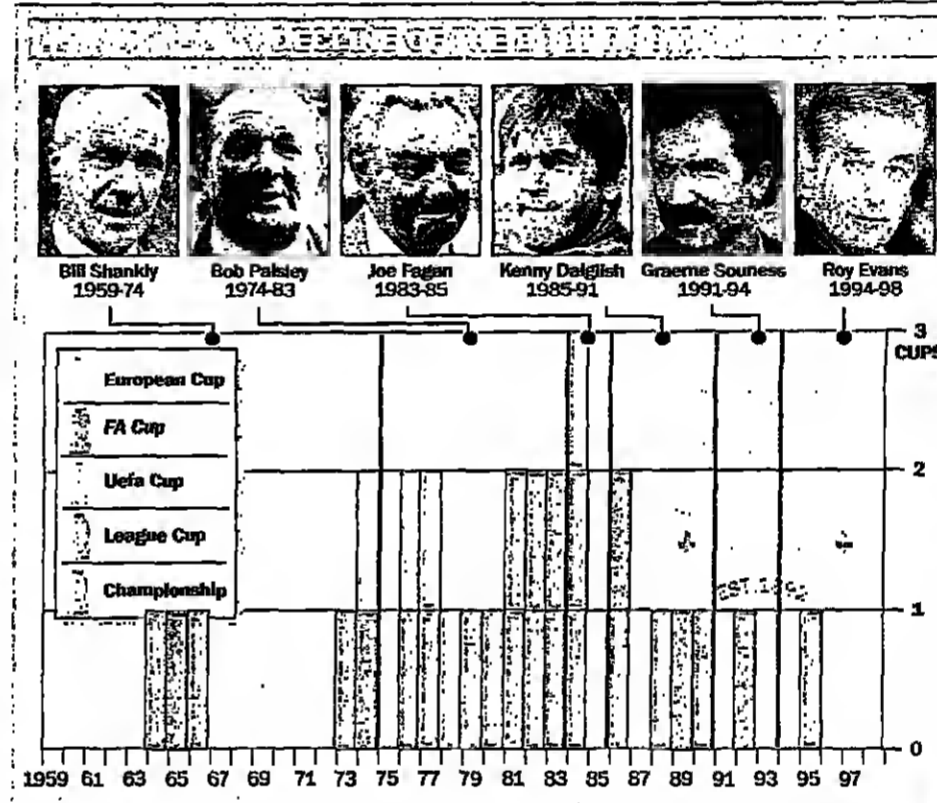
succeeding Bill Shankly. Evans was offered another role at the club, but he turned it down. "I thought it best to make a clean break," he said. "It would be easy to be a ghost on the wall, but perhaps it would be best, especially for me, if I got away from it all for a while."

Houllier told Moores that he wanted someone with a "Liverpool heart" as his assistant and Thompson's name was put forward. "I had a call on my mobile from the chairman, just before I was due to play five-a-side with some other former players," Thompson said. "I was shocked when I was offered the job, but it is the greatest day of my life."

Thompson was sacked as reserve team coach by Souless in 1992. His return is motivated by the need to instil discipline and passion into the team, but it was a strange sight as his presence dominated Houllier at the press conference. Houllier admitted he did not know Thompson, but said: "There is only one manager now, and we will not be making the same mistake."

Evans has become, therefore, the last manager to graduate from the Anfield boot-room, an institution developed by Shankly, the manager of Liverpool from 1959 to 1974. His successors, Paisley, Joe Fagan, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souless, were all steeped in its history.

Houllier ushered in a new era solemnly. "This is the saddest moment of my short time at Liverpool," he said. "Roy



White is banned for 16 weeks

By ALASDAIR REID

JASON WHITE, the Glasgow Caledonians flanker, has been banned from rugby for 16 weeks after being found guilty of stamping on the head of Braam van Straaten, the South African stand-off half, during the match at Firhill on Tuesday evening.

The sentence, which will keep White, 20, out of rugby until March 2 next year, was handed down by the match commissioner, Allan Hosie, at a disciplinary hearing at Murrayfield yesterday.

White had been cited by the South Africans for illegal use of the boot after an incident in the 65th minute. A BBC recording of the game showed that his foot had come down on the head of the grounded Van Straaten, piercing his head guard.

In upholding the charge, and delivering a sentence almost twice as long as the recommended minimum 60 days, Hosie rejected the defence of White that the contact had been accidental.

Hosie, the former international referee who is chairman of the Five Nations Committee, was also critical of the war of words that had broken out after the incident.

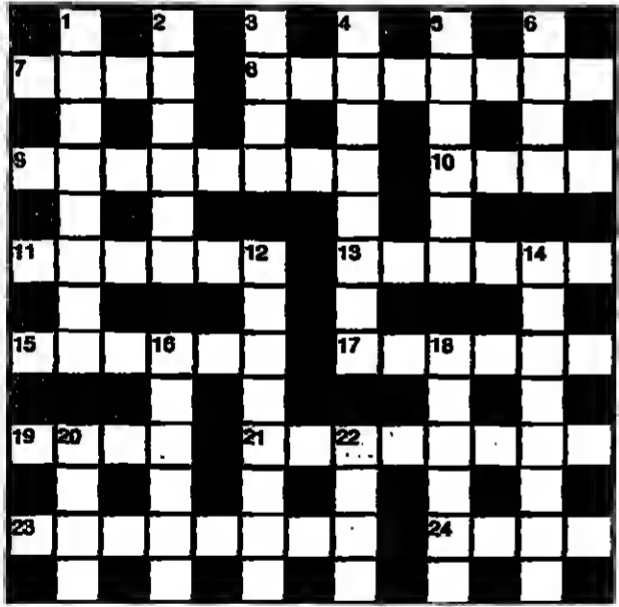
"I don't want to comment on the sentence directly," he said, "but I'd like to observe that comments attributed to certain personnel connected with both teams in advance of the disciplinary hearing were misguided and misplaced, and should not happen again."

The obvious target of Hosie's words is Nick Mallet, the South African coach, who spoke openly and angrily about the incident immediately after the match.

David Jordan, the Caledonians chief executive, last night expressed astonishment that his side had also attracted the wrath of the official. "I thought we conducted ourselves in a perfectly dignified fashion," he said. Jordan confirmed that an appeal would be lodged, but refused to say whether it would be against the verdict itself or the length of sentence.

White, who has captained Scotland at schools and age-group levels, has been widely tipped to become a full international player in the future. Arthob Petersen, the Springboks manager, said: "We are satisfied. The team now wants to put this unfortunate incident behind us."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1562

- ACROSS: 7 Front warning shout (4), 8 In a third stage (8), 9 A US state a creeper (8), 10 Walk (through stream) (4), 11 Handcart (6), 13 Filled glass: protection on car (6), 15 Regular correspondent (3,3), 17 Preserve (body) (6), 19 Slide out of control (4), 21 Three-panel altar-piece (8), 23 Russian alphabet (8), 24 Very eager (4). DOWN: 1 Ponder (8), 2 Union (of egg companies) (6), 3 Knock unconscious (4), 4 Introductory statement (8), 5 N American tent (6), 6 Goad, poke (4), 12 Behave with pride (4,4), 14 Choosing best from various sources (8), 16 Language mixture (6), 18 Divulge: be disloyal to (6), 20 Florida islands: diatonic scales (4), 22 One needing scratch (4).

SOLUTION TO NO 1561: ACROSS: 3 Amicable 7 Stolen 8 Flying 9 Gateau 10 Purdah 11 Page 13 Three 15 Girl 17 Creepy 18 Acurly 19 Action 20 Hubris 21 Threnody. DOWN: 1 Strata 2 Allego 3 Anguish 4 Collude 5 Brindisi 6 Eggshell 11 Penchant 12 Go-getter 13 Typhoon 14 Empathy 15 Grubby 16 Retain

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Schmeichel makes last shout

Rob Hughes on the goalkeeper's decision to leave Old Trafford

As expected, Mark Bosnich steps into the shadow of Peter Schmeichel as Manchester United goalkeeper after this season, his task will be to fill not only the boots of one of the biggest athletes in football, but also to replace a perfectionist.

Schmeichel announced yesterday, one week shy of his 35th birthday, that he asked to be released from the most coveted goalkeeping role in England. He is not retiring; rather he hopes to prolong his career by moving abroad, probably to France, where there is more time between matches, a less severe regimen to England's, which is so tough on nerve and sinew and concentration.

He is honest enough to say that the back, the joints, the hamstrings cannot now respond to the standards he and United have set one another. England's main aim for more games, more pay-nights, is at odds with his encroaching years, and rather than wait while his reputation wilts, he has called time on a chapter of achievement.

Good for him, and good for United that they will allow him to go without fee. This allows him to negotiate terms that will enrich his final sporting years possibly more than United's pay structure permits: a loyalty pay-off in these increasingly disloyal post-Bos-

man days. The signs were becoming writ large. Errors were creeping into his game, notably the rash misunderstanding when he rushed off his line and into the back of Jaap Stam, costing Manchester a Champions' League victory in Munich a month ago. Besides, it is a goalkeeper's job to have eyes and ears everywhere, and age cannot have wearied Schmeichel so much that he hasn't heard or read that Bosnich is to walk out on Aston Villa next spring, probably lined up for Old Trafford.

Olympique Marseilles and



Schmeichel: feeling his age

AS Monaco are two clubs ready to take Schmeichel to the French Riviera where warmer winds soothe athletic limbs, and where the space between games has a far more recuperative rhythm. "I'm enjoying the game as much as ever," Schmeichel said yesterday, "but it's getting harder to keep pace. I need to train more than ever, and to prepare properly I need more time between games than I can get in England. I certainly need more than 12 days' summer holiday."

Alex Ferguson, who paid Brondby £50,000 for Schmeichel in August 1991, describes the big, blond Dane as "a major player in United's success... an inspiration and an influence to everyone." The style of that "influence" could look fearfully helligent, and some players dubbed Schmeichel "The German" for his constant shouts that could almost seal the numbers off their backs.

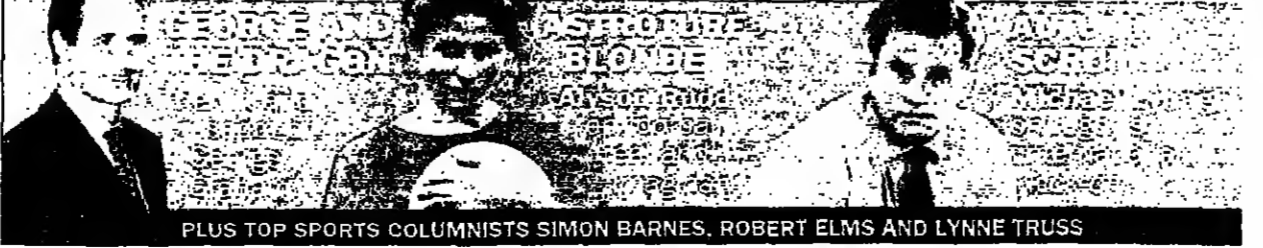
Yet with him, they lifted the albatross that had denied United the league title for 26 years - in less than a quarter of that time Schmeichel has been a championship winner four times and won the FA Cup

twice. The hunger to achieve, and to repeat the achievement, came, he said, from knowing what real life was like. The son of a professional musician, Peter Schmeichel was an apprentice carpet fitter, a salesman, a cleaner until, at 24, he became a full-time goalkeeper. The towering ego on the field contrasts to a polite, thoughtful Scandinavian manner away from competition. He roomed with Eric Cantona and shared hours with the Frenchman at the chess board.

We glimpsed his compassionate side when he attended to David Buist after a shattered broken leg ended the career of the Coventry City defender in Schmeichel's goalmouth. More private is Schmeichel the family man, who plays the piano for relaxation, and who reflected recently: "I was pointing out on a map to my son, Kasper, all the countries I'd been to when I realised I could hardly tell him about anything other than hotels and stadiums."

Spoken with a Mancunian accent, the legacy of his time at Old Trafford, Schmeichel has half a year more to add a fifth championship, maybe a European Cup, and possibly pass the 350-appearance milestone with Manchester United. His release, however, is not an ending: Schmeichel has 107 caps for Denmark, and every intention of adding to them.

THIS MORNING IN THE SATURDAY TIMES 13 pages of sport



PLUS TOP SPORTS COLUMNISTS SIMON BARNES, ROBERT ELMS AND LYNNE TRUSS

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